TUESDAY
December 10, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 55 • No. 293

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

ALLEGATIONS OVER OCCRP

U.S. State Department should clarify: BJP

NEWS » PAGE 13

DRUG SMUGGLING RACKET

India quizzes Musk's Starlink for clues in drug case

NEWS » PAGE 14

HAITI CRISIS

184 killed in violence in Port-au-Prince: UN

WORLD » PAGE 16

PLACES AND WORSHIP

SC hearing may decide future of secularism

Verdict may have an impact on many cases

EDITORIAL » PAGE 10

SEESAW BATTLE

Ding beats Gukesh in Game 12, draws level

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Toll plaza achieves record collection

BENGALURU
The Devanahalli (Sadahalli) plaza, situated near Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, recorded its highest-ever toll collection of ₹308.01 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24. » Page 3

'Fake patients': NMC's directive

BENGALURU
The National Medical Commission has ordered strict scrutiny of "fake patients" shown by the managements during physical assessment/inspection before sanctioning of new medical colleges or allowing increase in the number of UG and PG medical seats. » Page 2

Govt. stable, says Syria PM; Israel conducts air strikes

Militant leader al-Jolani promises representative government and religious tolerance; Israeli attacks target suspected chemical weapons sites to keep them out of the hands of extremists

Associated Press
DAMASCUS

Syria's Prime Minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said on Monday that most Cabinet Ministers are still working from offices in Damascus after militants entered the capital over the weekend and overthrew President Bashar al-Assad. Streams of refugees crossed in from neighbouring countries, hoping for a more peaceful future.

However, there were already signs of the difficulties ahead for the militant alliance now in control of much of the country, which is led by Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, a former senior al-Qaeda militant who severed ties with the extremist group years ago and formed Hayat Tahrir al-Sham which leads the militant coalition that stormed Damascus. He has promised representative government and religious tolerance.

He said on Monday they would not tell women how to dress.

Israel said it is carrying out air strikes on suspected chemical weapons sites and long-range rockets to keep them from falling into the hands of extremists. Israel has also seized a buffer zone inside Syria after Syrian troops withdrew.

In northern Syria, Turkiye said allied opposition forces seized the town of Manbij from Kurdish-led forces backed by the U.S., a reminder that even after Mr. Assad's departure, the country remains split among armed groups that have fought in the past.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
PARADIGM SHIFT
» PAGE 10

Uncertain times: Militants seen atop a tank, patrolling an area in Damascus on Monday. AFP

India calls for inclusive political process in Syria

NEW DELHI
India on Monday called for a peaceful and inclusive political process in Syria to find a resolution to the dramatic turn of events after militants claimed control of capital Damascus. "We are monitoring the situation in Syria," the MEA said in a statement. » PAGE 12

Sanjay Malhotra

Union govt. names Sanjay Malhotra as RBI Governor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre on Monday announced the appointment of Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, a day before incumbent Shaktikanta Das's six-year term comes to an end on Tuesday.

He will take charge of the country's monetary policy framework and banking regulation. He will take charge of RBI at a challenging time with inflation having been a bugbear.

Misri visits Dhaka, airs concerns over safety of minorities

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday conveyed India's "concerns" over the safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh, and urged the interim government there to follow a "constructive approach".

Mr. Misri made the remarks while holding a Foreign Office Consultation with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mohammad Jashim Uddin, in Dhaka. He also called on Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, who urged India to "join his initiative to revive the SAARC".

Mr. Misri is the first high-ranking Indian official to visit the neighbouring country after the student-people uprising forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India in August. Bilateral ties have nosedived since the interim government took charge.

Vikram Misri with Mohammad Jashim Uddin.

Responding to Mr. Misri's remarks, Mr. Jashim Uddin expressed Dhaka's concerns over the breach of security at the Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala and asserted that the safety of minorities was an "internal matter of Bangladesh".

"I have underlined India's desire to work closely with the interim Government of Bangladesh authorities," Mr. Misri said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Session witnesses heat both inside legislature and outside it

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

There was much heat and dust as the 10-day Winter Session of the State legislature began in this border town on Monday.

While the Opposition and treasury benches clashed inside the legislature over the issue of serving notices on encroachments of waqf properties, the attempt by Maharashtra Ekikarana Samiti (MES) to hold a protest outside and the police restricting them created much heat.

Both the Houses saw the BJP raising the waqf issue, which resulted in dharnas by the Opposition and repeated adjournments.

The issue is likely to rock both the Houses on Tuesday too. The issue of Panchamasali reservation too led to a vociferous debate.

A view of the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Monday. P.K. BADIGER

Meanwhile, with the MES protest being restricted by the district police, leaders from various political parties in Maharashtra denounced the "repressive measures" employed by Karnataka.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 6

Reservation must not be based on religion, SC tells West Bengal

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally observed that reservation must not be based on religion while hearing an appeal filed by the State of West Bengal against a Calcutta High Court judgment striking down its policy to include several castes, largely Muslim communities, in the State's Other Backward Classes (OBC) list.

The High Court had concluded that religion was the "sole criterion for declaring these communities as OBC". It had found the "selection of 77 classes of Muslims as backwards an affront to the Muslim community as a whole".

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the State with advocate Astha Sharma, said the criterion for including Muslim communities in the OBC list was based on backwardness and not religion.

The Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan scheduled the case for hearing on January 7.

In an earlier hearing, the top court had asked the State to clarify the nature and scope of the survey undertaken to identify the social and educational backwardness of these communities and their inadequacy of representation in the State public services which warranted their inclusion in the list.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

[1]Only for policies that are in-force. (3% of sum assured on vesting) that will get accrued for each completed policy year subject to policy being in force and all due premiums being paid. [2]All unit-linked policies are different from traditional insurance policies and are subject to different risk factors. In this policy, the investment risk in investment portfolio is borne by the policyholder. [3]In case of Joint Life Option the annuity continues till either of the life assured is alive.
HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited ("HDFC Life"). CIN: L65110MH2000PLC128245, IRDAI Registration No. 101.
Registered Office: 13th Floor, Lodha Excelus, Apollo Mills Compound, N.M. Joshi Marg, Mahalaxmi, Mumbai - 400 011. Email: service@hdfclife.com, Tel No: 022 68446530. Available Mon-Sat from 10 am to 7 pm. (Local charges apply). DO NOT prefix any country code e.g. +91 or 00, website: www.hdfclife.com The name/letters "HDFC" in the name/logo of the HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (HDFC Life) belongs to HDFC Bank Limited and is used by HDFC Life under licence from HDFC Bank Limited. The above mentioned plan name is only the name of the category of plan. For more details on the risk factors, associated terms and conditions and exclusions, please read the sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale. ARN: MC/11/24/18602

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS/FRAUDULENT OFFERS
•IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums.
Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint.

Provide details of all properties burnt, looted during violence: SC to Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Manipur government to provide details of buildings and properties which were burnt, partially burnt, looted and trespassed during the ethnic violence which began in May 2023.

A Bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar also sought information on the criminal action taken against persons found unauthorisedly occupying these properties and steps taken by the State to make them pay occupation charges or mesne profits (money paid to the rightful owner of a property by someone who is in unlawful possession of it).

The court listed the case for hearing in the week commencing January 20.

Burning issue: INDIA bloc staging a protest at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on Monday over the situation in Manipur. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"We want all the details of these properties which have been burnt, looted and encroached on... you can give us this in a sealed envelope," Chief Justice Khanna told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Manipur government.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

INDIA bloc seeks action on Shah, Biren Singh

NEW DELHI
INDIA bloc leaders from Manipur on Monday held a protest at Jantar Mantar over the ongoing ethnic conflict in the State, demanding that Union Home Minister Amit Shah resign and CM N. Biren Singh be sacked for the way they handled it. » PAGE 13

Pink ball charm — darling of the masses, villain for willow wielders

Day-Night Tests have been by far the most challenging of the twirls that international cricket has seen in terms of preparation, the condition under lights, the depth perception and the mental scars on the batters for an experience which usually is short-lived but enthralling in equal measure

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

Much like life itself, sport is all about innovation. Unlike life, it is also about making things more interesting, if not always better. Changing times demand adaptations, flexibility, the willingness to think out of the box and the courage to take a punt, even if it means displeasing the pundits and the connoisseurs, the traditionalists who frown upon modernism.

International cricket has embarked on a journey of twirls, if not twists, since the early 1970s. Until then, the only format in which countries clashed with each other was in the longer version. Timeless Tests were in vogue until 1939 and the start of World War II. In fact, between 1877, when the first Test was played, and 1939, there were 99 timeless Tests, of which two ended in draws owing to visiting teams having to catch a ship back home. The longest Test lasted eight days, Australia defeating England by five wickets at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in 1929.

It's impossible now to even imagine a Test match lasting that long. Most games finish on day three, occasionally, a game drifts into the fourth day. Five-day finishes are a rarity and batathons even less so, maybe because batting techniques have transformed, maybe because the bowlers have become smarter, maybe because the influence of the limited-overs versions is a deterrent towards batting time and a pronounced onus on defence, which was the norm when not losing was considered more important than seeking victory.

The first limited-overs international was born out of necessity when the opening three days of the Australia-England Test at the MCG in January 1971 were washed out. The match was played across 40 overs per side, the hosts winning by five wickets.

Soon, these games became more frequent and the first men's World Cup was played in England in 1975, across 60 overs. By then, the women had already contested a World Cup, also in England, in 1973. It took a decade for the matches to be standardised to 50 overs per side, and the one-day version was quickly assimilated into the cricketing ecosystem until the early 2000s, when the need for instant gratification and dwindling attendances at domestic matches in England led to the birth of the T20 revolution.

Instant appeal

The guarantee of a result in a little over three hours, the sight of the ball disappearing deep into the stands, of zing bails and flashing stumps, appealed instantly to the masses. Men and women, boys and girls, young and old, all thronged the venues and before long, the 20-over game spread its wings until finding a flourishing nesting place in India through the Indian Premier League. Soon, other variants surfaced - the T10, The Hundred in England...

Test cricket retained its core shape until November 2015, when Australia and New Zealand played the first day-night Test at the Adelaide Oval. The match was an unqualified hit. The prospect of a Test starting at 2.30 in the afternoon and going deep into the evening, with the final session played entirely under floodlights, appealed to the masses. The fast bowlers were energised, seeing as how much help there was for them in the last two hours. The batters were challenged, no longer able to just plonk their front foot down the track and hit through the line, an offshoot of the T20 diktat. And the fans loved it, the shiny pink ball with its pronounced black seam an instant object of attraction, mystery, intrigue.

Even at that early stage, it was evident that the day-night Test wouldn't be a permanent stop on the calendar, it wouldn't replace the red-ball, day game by any stretch of the imagination. Too many factors were stacked against that possibility, not least the prevalence of dew in many parts of the world and the fear that a distinct bias towards the ball would eventually put audiences off. And that's how it has panned out, unsurprisingly.

In the last nine years, only 23 Tests have been played with a pink ball, the colour chosen because the authorities felt it was the closest variation of red they could arrive at without compromising on visibility issues.

The pink ball is harder than its red or white counterpart. It retains its shine for longer, because it has multiple layers of lacquer to ensure it doesn't get discoloured easily or quickly. It therefore has a different feel to it and those who don't play day-night Tests even once a year on an average find it a greater puzzle than those who do. Australia have played the most number of pink-ball Tests, 13, of which eight have been staged at the Adelaide Oval. With good reason, too.

Perfect record

Sunday's 10-wicket defeat of India extended Australia's perfect record in day-night Tests at the Oval, where they have hardly been stretched. For India, it was their fifth tryst with the pink ball and only the second overseas. The previous too had been in Adelaide, in December 2020 when they were shot out for 36 in their second innings in natural light on the third morning, their lowest total in Test cricket but also the springboard for their astonishing fightback that earned them an epochal series triumph.

This particular Test lasted a little over 14 and a half hours and ended before the first long break on the third afternoon, yet it smashed several crowd records. Saturday's day two attracted 51,642 fans, the third highest for a single day of Test cricket at the ground, this on the back of an official attendance of 50,186 the previous day. In all, the total match attendance was 135,012, comfortably the most for a match involving India at the Adelaide Oval, smashing the previous record of 113,009 in 2014-15 when, in his first game as Test captain in a stand-in capacity, Virat Kohli almost took India to a historic win with his second hundred of the game.

"It is clearly the most popular Test of our summer, the day-night game," Greg Chappell, the former Australia captain and India coach, observed during a conversation with this writer on Saturday. "Just look at the number of people, the spectacle. It also challenges the batters more than other Tests, which isn't necessarily a bad thing."

The atmosphere in Adelaide in the lead-up to and during each day's play - a pity that it only lasted two and a quarter days - was electric, to say the least. Fans trooped in from different parts of the country, a Friday start ensuring that the weekend party could begin organically.

The beeline towards the various stands was organised but purposeful, families trooping in alongside other demographic groups, kids doing their thing between watching the action, the elders helping themselves to beverages of various strength and hue throughout the afternoon and evening and getting more and more boisterous as the night skies darkened.

For India's players, used to such atmospheres largely in T20 games, this must have been a fabulous experience even if they ended up on the wrong side of the result. For once, the support for the home team outnumbered that for the Indians - a far cry from even Perth and first Test, when it appeared as if the Indians were the hosts - which must have been an unusual situation to be in for most of the players.

Too much prep work

The pink ball doesn't come without its challenges for the protagonists. It entails too much prep work for what generally is three or at best four days of play - only five of the 23 Tests have spilled over to day five - once a year in Australia's case, and once in much longer for the Indians. Australian wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who played his maiden day-night Test, spoke of depth perception issues, Rohit Sharma alluded to the difficulties of sighting the pink ball against a white sightscreen without using it as an excuse for India's batting collapses.

Two days before the Test, K.L. Rahul held forth on the difficulties several Indian batters encountered at the nets trying to pick the ball from the bowlers' hand. None of them game-changing because, as Rohit pithily pointed out, professional cricketers are expected to adapt to various situations and asks from time to time, but not ideal from the players' perspective. But no one was complaining - not the Indians, and certainly not the victorious Australians, who are quite the masters now of the pink-ball skirmish.

Wicked pleasure

Even the most harried batter will acknowledge, though, that there is a kind of wicked pleasure to be derived in the night session when the ball seams around as if possessed, transforming the most accomplished willow-wielder into a jumpy, sometimes nervy bundle of uncertainty, especially when the said harried batter is in the field watching his bowlers inflicting the damage.

In some ways, each day of the pink-ball Test is a day of two halves - the first sort of three hours or so when, in natural light, the ball doesn't misbehave prodigiously, and then the twilight period segueing into the night when pink triggers the blues.

It's enthralling, entrancing, mesmeric. It's something that is hard to imagine unless you are at the ground, savouring the thrill, enjoying the atmosphere, soaking in the ambience, becoming one with the audience.

Its greatest charm lies in its novelty and that's how it must remain. Test cricket exclusively under lights and only with a pink ball will be a stretch, but when it comes around once a year, sit back, relax and cherish it. After all, it truly is one of a kind.

THE GIST

- Test cricket retained its core shape until November 2015, when Australia and New Zealand played the first day-night Test at the Adelaide Oval
- The atmosphere in Adelaide in the lead-up to and during each day's play – a pity that it only lasted two and a quarter days – was electric
- The pink ball doesn't come without its challenges for the protagonists

NMC mandates scrutiny of 'fake patients' before sanctioning new medical colleges

National Medical Commission releases Medical Assessment and Rating Board guidelines for evaluation of medical colleges

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has ordered strict scrutiny of "fake patients" shown by the managements during physical assessment/inspection before sanctioning of new medical colleges or allowing increase in the number of UG and PG medical seats.

NMC has invited applications for establishment of new medical colleges intending to offer undergraduate course and increase in the number of PG and UG seats for the academic year 2025-2026. It has released the Medical Assessment and Rating Board (MARB) guidelines for evaluation of medical college/institutions 2024.

NMC guidelines also stress that the attendance of the faculty and other staff should be reviewed from time to time. FILE PHOTO

MARB guidelines

In the MARB guidelines, the NMC has stressed the need to curb the practice of showing "fake patients" in the medical colleges. For the purpose of training students, a certain minimum clinical exposure of patients has been defined in the Minimum Standards of Requirements (MSR) criteria of UG and PG Board in the form of bed occupancy requirements etc.

However, it has been observed that some medical institution/colleges show fake patients (persons who do not require any treatment at all or in-patient treatment) to fulfil the requirement of bed occupancy, investigation, etc. The guidelines say that if the assessor notices this and makes a remark, "it will be considered as indulgence of institution in 'fake patient practice' which will be considered as a serious violation and it will invite punishment as per MARB rules," reads the guideline.

Therefore, NMC has instructed all the assessors that observation as to whether a large number of patients were admitted on the day of assessment or the previous day is a must.

Further, it said that it should be examined whether such recently or previously admitted patients have no minor or insignificant ailments/problems which can be treated on Outpatient (OPD) basis with oral medications.

Patients who are admitted without any evidence of investigations like X-ray, blood tests etc., (before or after admission) or treatment which is generally done for admitted patients like intravenous fluid, injections, catheterisation, giving medicines etc. should be noted.

It should be observed whether in paediatric ward "most of the admitted children were playful and joyous without any significant problem."

From the same family?

Further, it stated that the observation of assessor/s on whether multiple patients from the same family were admitted and whether patients were admitted in large numbers through preventive health check-ups/camps is also a must.

The NMC's guidelines also stressed that the attendance of the faculty and other staff should be reviewed from time to time. "The required number of faculties as mentioned in MSR guidelines of respective boards (UG or PG) should be available throughout the year and for any given period of time. As it is a minimum requirement document, no relaxation will be permitted except in special circumstances in the larger interest by following due procedures," it added.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, B.L. Sujatha Rathod, director of the Directorate of Medical Education, said that NMC is the regulatory authority and the State is the implementing authority. "Whatever the regulations are, it will be examined and put into action," she said.

Surgery on Darshan planned on Dec. 11, High Court told

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The doctors have planned to perform a surgery for Darshan's back pain on Wednesday, the High Court of Karnataka was informed on Monday.

Senior advocate C.V. Nagesh, appearing for the actor, made this submission before Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty during the hearing of the petitions filed by Darshan and other accused persons in the Renukaswamy murder case.

Meanwhile, Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) P. Prasanna Kumar told the court that Darshan had actively participated in the fatal assault on Renukaswamy by kicking on the victim's private parts and chest with his legs.

Another accused, actress Pavithra Gowda, had assaulted the victim with her slipper, contended the SPP while quoting the statements of eyewitnesses recorded by the police.

Samples of DNA and technical evidences are overwhelming to establish active participation of Darshan and other accuser in the alleged murder of the victim after ensuing kidnap of victim by deceitful means.

Darshan

Later, Mr. Nagesh clarified to the court that the actor has not missed the interim bail given to him on medical grounds stating that it was not his decision on fixing the date for surgery as the doctors have to decide it based on medical conditions.

The SPP had alleged that Darshan had misused the interim bail given as the actor had not undergone surgery for which the court had ordered his release. After competition of the hearing, Justice Shetty reserved orders on bail pleas.

Myntra complains of being cheated of ₹1.08 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cybercrime police have registered a case against unknown persons for allegedly cheating an e-commerce company of ₹1.08 crore through the company's return claim policy.

The complaint was lodged by Sardar M.S., an enforcement officer with Myntra Designs Private Limited.

According to the complaint, the company noticed over 5,000 orders placed by different customers for apparel and branded shoes and paid through UPI and COD modes between March and June this year in and around Bengaluru. However, despite orders being delivered and received successfully, the refund claims were raised through fake bills, citing different reasons under different categories, and the refund was made to online accounts.

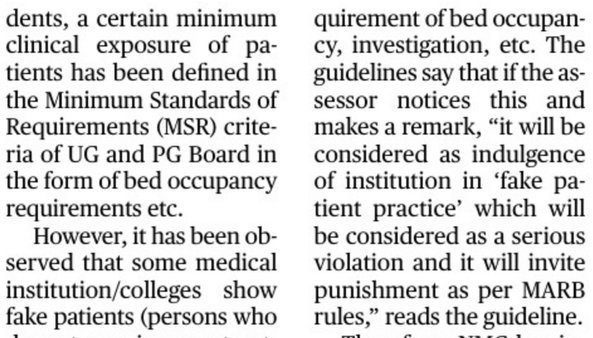
The company, during the audit, came to know about the cheating. Further probe is on.

Over 5 lakh registrations received for PM Surya Ghar scheme, says Bescom MD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana' has received 5.15 lakh registrations, of which 1.17 lakh applications have been accepted, said Mahantesh Bilagi, MD, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom).

Speaking at a day-long workshop on Saturday to encourage the adoption of 'PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana', which saw attendance from Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) in Bengaluru and solar rooftop vendors, Mr. Bilagi said: "To execute this scheme, 353 private vendors have registered in the MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy) portal," adding that the use of solar energy in households across the State will reduce dependence on conventional energy sources and contribute to national renewable energy targets. He explained that the government provides a subsidy ranging from ₹30,000 up to ₹78,000 for domestic grid-connected rooftop plants and loan facilities were available from banks to install the solar panels.



During the workshop, many RWA members raised the hurdles in availing the benefits of the PM Surya Ghar scheme. Responding to the query, Mr. Bilagi instructed the representatives of SLBC (State Level Bankers' Committee) to provide accurate information about loan facilities of the scheme.

At present, to avail the loan, the banks have fixed the age limit at 65. If consumers above 65 years desire to avail of the bank loan, they can give their family members as co-borrowers, said the representative of SLBC. Further, the SLBC representative said that banks will not ask for collateral security to avail of loan facility under PM Surya Ghar.

Representatives of the apartment federations pointed out that while applying for loan, banks consider them as MSME though they do not come under the MSME purview.

Notice issued to three engineering colleges in 'seat-blocking scam'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Malleswaram police probing the engineering seats-blocking scam have issued notices to three engineering colleges seeking details of admissions and on students not taking admission for the allocated seats for the past three years.

The notices were sent to BMS College of Engineering, Akash Institute Of Engineering and Technology, and New Horizon College of Engineering, which have been mentioned in the FIR as the alleged beneficiaries of the scam.

These colleges are suspected to have blocked the seats as management seats. The police last Tuesday arrested 10 people, including an outsourced employee of the Karnataka Examinations Authority. The police suspect that the gang was running the racket and involved in similar offence in other professional courses.

BBMP Special Commissioner to answer queries on e-khata on Dec. 12

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Munish Moudgil

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) launched faceless, contactless, and online e-khata system on October 1.

This new system aims to get rid of corruption and bureaucratic apathy.

THTALKSBENGALURU

The initiative is led by BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue) Munish Moudgil. Although property owners have started downloading draft and final e-khata, questions, confusions and complaints abound. Mr. Moudgil will address the concerns and queries of property owners in a live chat with the *The Hindu* on December 12 at 3 p.m. Please send your questions to thtalksbengaluru@thehindu.co.in

Jumbos sighted in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department on Monday launched an operation to drive away two elephants that were sighted in a plantation at Bommanahalli in Mysuru taluk. It is suspected that the elephants skirted the KRS backwaters in K.R. Nagar taluk and entered Bommanahalli early in the day.

SALE PROCLAMATION
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II - MUMBAI
MTNL Bhavan, 3rd Floor, Colaba Market, Colaba, Mumbai

RP No. 402/2016 Date: 06.12.2024

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 38, 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993,

Indian Overseas Bank, Bangalore Branch ...Certificate Holders

V/s

M/s Vivek Textiles Mills Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. ...Certificate Debtors

CD-1 : M/s Vivek Textiles Mills Pvt. Ltd. Regd. Office at 6, St. John's Road, Bangalore-42, and also at: Factory No.16-B, Peenya Indl. Area, Phase-I, Bangalore-58.

CD-2 : Mr. Nand Kishore Mehra (deceased through legal heirs)
(a) Mr. Pramod Mehra, A-202, Garden Mansion, Old Airport Road, Kodhihalli, Near Diamond Garden, KGA-Bangalore-560008.
(b) Mr. Ashok Mehra, Oberio Springs, A Wing, Flat No.305, Off New Link Road, Andheri (West), Near Monginis Factory, Mumbai-400053.
(c) Mr. Amod Mehra, 301, Shiv Shakto-II, JVPD Scheme, N.S.Road No.10, Above Union Bank of India, Juhu, Mumbai-400049.

CD-3 : Mr. Pramod Mehra, No.6, St. John's Road, Bangalore-42.

CD-4 : Karnataka State Financial Corporation, Shankaranarayana Building, M.G.Road, Bangalore.

Whereas Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore has drawn up the Recovery Certificate in Original Application No.965 of 1995 for recovery of Rs.57,25,447.26 with interest from the Certificate Debtors and a sum of Rs.6,26,06,832.00 (upto 20-01-2025) is recoverable together with further interest and charges as per Recovery Certificate Decree.

And whereas the undersigned has ordered the sale of property mentioned in the Schedule below in satisfaction of the said certificate.

And whereas a sum of Rs.57,25,447.26 along with pendent-lite and further interest @ 10% p.a. including cost from the date of filing of application till payment and/or realization from CDs.

Notice is hereby given that in absence of any order of postponement, the property shall be sold on 10-01-2025 between 02:00 P.M. to 03:00 P.M. (with auto extension clause in case of bid in last 5 minutes before closing, if required by open public e-auction and bidding shall take place through "On line Electronic Bidding" through the website (www.bankeauction.com) of M/s. C-1 India Private Limited, having address at Plot No.68, Sector 44, Gurugram-122003, Haryana, India, Contact Person: Mr. Bhavik Pandya (Mobile +91 8866682937), E-mail address: maharashtra@c1india.com & gujarat@c1india.com. (Support help Desk N. +91 8866682937 / 01244302000). The intending bidders should register themselves on the website of the aforesaid e-auction agency well in advance and get user ID and Password for uploading of requisite documents and/or for participating in the open public e-auction. For further details contact: Mr. A.Rangaraj, Senior Manager, Mobile: 9677825326.

The sale will be of the property of the C.Ds above named as mentioned in the schedule below and the liabilities and claims attached to the said property, so far as they have been ascertained, are those specified in the schedule against each lot/property.

The property will be put for the sale in the lots specified in the schedule. If the amount to be realized is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder. The sale also be stopped if, before any lot is knocked down, the arrears mentioned in the said certificate, interest costs (including cost of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such certificate, interest and costs have been paid to the undersigned.

The particulars specified in the annexed schedule have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, but the undersigned shall not be answerable for any error, mis-statement or omission in this proclamation.

No officer or other person, having any duty to perform in connection with sale, either directly or indirectly bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

The sale shall be subject to the conditions prescribed in Second Schedule of the Income Tax act, 1961 and the rules made there under and to the following conditions:-

1. The reserve price below which the property shall not be sold is Rs.8,46,00,000/- (Rupees Eight Crores Forty Six Lakhs Only)
2. The amount by which the bid is to be increased shall be Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh only). However, the decision in this regard of the undersigned shall be final and binding on the parties concerned. In the event of any dispute arising as to the amount of bid, or as to the bidder, the lot shall at once be again put up to auction.
3. The highest bidder shall be declared to be the purchaser of that respective lot. It shall be in the discretion of the undersigned to decline/accept the highest bid when the price offered appears so clearly inadequate as to make it inadvisable to do so or for reasons otherwise.
4. The public at large is hereby invited to bid in the said E-Auction. The online offers along with EMD amounting to Rs.84,60,000/- (Rupees Eighty Four Lakhs Sixty Thousand only), is payable by way of RTGS/NEFT in the Account No.: 26660113035001, IFSC Code No: IOBA0002666. (Account of Indian Overseas Bank)
The offers in a sealed envelope (addressed to the Recovery Officer, DRT-II. Mumbai superscribing R.P.No.402 of 2016 only containing duly filled in and blue ink signed prescribed bid form giving complete details of the bidder(s) including e-mail ID, Mobile Number etc., alongwith self attested copies of PAN/TAN Card, Address Proof, Photo Identify Proof of the bidder(s) and RTGS/NEFT details towards EMD Amount of Rs.84,60,000/- (Rupees Eighty Four Lakhs Sixty Thousand only) should be deposited with the undersigned not later than by 4:00 P.M. on 08.01.2025.
5. The bidder (s) shall also declare if they are bidding on their own behalf or on behalf of their principals and sign declaration accordingly. In the latter case. they shall be required to deposit with the bid documents their original authority duly ink signed by their principal together with complete KYC of the said principal duly attested by the said principal together with complete KYC of the authorized person. In case of the company, authenticated copy of resolution passed by the board members of the company or any other authenticated documents confirming representation / attorney of the company together with complete KYC of the said principal company and complete KYC of the authorized person shall also be submitted alongwith the bid documents. In case of failure, bid shall not be considered.
6. The bidder(s) shall also upload online on the website of the aforesaid e- auction agency, after registering themselves on the website of the aforesaid e- auction agency, copy of the duly filled in prescribed bid form alongwith photocopies of the documents as stated in para 5 here in above. The last date for submission of online bid is 08.01.2025 by 4:00 P.M.
The physical inspection of the properties may be taken between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on 02.01.2025 at the property site. For further details contact: Mr. A.Rangaraj, Senior Manager, Mobile - 9677825326.
7. Once the bid is submitted it is mandatory for the bidder (s) to participate in the bidding process of the e-auction by logging in on the e-auction agency portal. failing which the EMD shall be forfeited to the Government, if the undersigned thinks fit.
8. The successful bidder shall have to deposit 25% of his final bid amount after adjustment of EMD by next bank working day i.e. by 4:00 P.M., in the said account as per details mentioned in para 4 above.
9. The successful highest bidder shall also deposit the balance 75% of final bid amount on or before 15th day from the date of auction sale of the property. If the 15th day is Sunday or other Holiday, then on the first bank working day after the 15th day by prescribed mode as stated in para 4 above.
10. In addition to the above, the successful highest bidder shall also deposit poundage fee with Recovery Officer-II, DRT-II @ 2% upto Rs.1,000/- and @ 1% of the excess of said amount of Rs.1,000/- through DD in favour of Registrar, DRT-II, Mumbai, within 15 days from the date of auction sale of the property.
11. In case of default of payment within the prescribed period, the deposit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, if the undersigned thinks fit, be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting successful highest bidder shall forfeit all claims to the property or the amount deposited. The property shall be resold. after the issue of fresh proclamation of sale. Further, the purchaser shall also be liable to make good of any shortfall or difference between his final bid amount and the price for which it is subsequently sold.
12. The property is being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" AND "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS".
13. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if found unreasonable or postpone the auction at any time without assigning any reason.

No. of lots	Description of the property to be sold with the names of the co-owners where the property belongs to defaulter and any other person as co-owners.	Revenue assessed upon property or any part thereof	Details of any other encumbrance to which property is liable	Claims if any, which have been put forward to the property and any other known particulars bearing on its nature and value
1	2	3	4	5
1.	I.E. Shed No.4, Survey No.69, Mehra Estate, Village Vikhroli, L.B.S. Marg, Mumbai-400079.	Not available	Identified property	The intervener vide his I.A. No.67 is claiming tenancy qua portion (admg. 9365 Sq.Ft.) of property.

Given under my hand and seal on this 06th day of December, 2024.

Sd/- S.K. Sharma,
Recovery Officer,
DRT-II, Mumbai

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

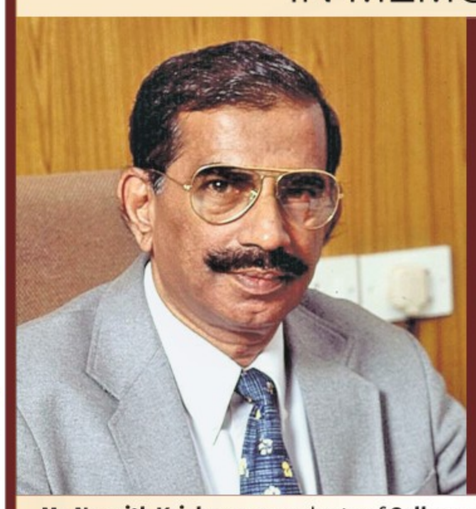
DEATH

In Loving Memory of

SUMATHI SRIRAM
DOB: 19.02.1961 DOD: 09.12.2024
Cremation on 11 Dec 2024 morning.
Dearly missed by
Family and Friends.
Ph: 044 24937352

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM



We regret to announce the passing of
Mr. Navnith Krishnan
(21 November 1941 - 4 December 2024),
beloved husband, father, brother and lover of nature and wildlife.

Mr. Navnith Krishnan, a graduate of College of Engineering Trivandrum, served with distinction in the Indian Army and rendered many years of exemplary service to the Indian Oil Corporation, retiring as General Manager and State Level Coordinator for Kerala region.

He is deeply mourned by his loving wife, Mrs. Indira Navnith, his children Deepak, Anjana, and Mangala, his daughter-in-law Suma, his son-in-law Harsha and grandchildren and his brothers Dr. Jay K. Raman, Jayaram, and Bharat Bhushan. His loss leaves an unfillable void in the lives of his family, friends, and all who were fortunate to know him.

He was a pillar of strength, wisdom, and kindness, inspiring all who knew him with his commitment to family, work, and nation. Final rites were performed on 6 December 2024 at Bengaluru in the presence of close family and friends. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who have offered their condolences and support.

FAMILY MEMBERS

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

Antimatter idea offers scientists clue to cracking cosmic mystery

If the universe started off with equal amounts of matter and antimatter, where has all the antimatter gone? Nobody knows for certain and the best current theory to explain the world fell woefully short of satisfying three crucial conditions, until a new study pointed out a caveat

Nirmal Raj

One of the most astonishing facts about the natural world is the existence of antiparticles. Theorised by the English physicist Paul A.M. Dirac in 1928 and observed in cosmic rays by American physicist Carl Anderson in 1932, an antiparticle is a 'partner' of a particle type that has the same mass but opposite charge. For example, the antielectron is the antiparticle of the electron; it has the same mass and is positively charged.

Antiparticles are an inevitable consequence of describing the world in terms of quantum mechanics and special relativity.

An antiparticle is a particle travelling backward in time. This is not an oversimplification. If it sounds eerie, that's because it is.

Cosmic puzzle: This composite image pieced together by data from multiple telescopes shows a part of the Milky Way galaxy's central region. The bright white portion hosts a supermassive black hole as well as energetic particle reactions that produce antimatter. PUBLIC DOMAIN

O antimatter, where art thou?

But where is all the antimatter made of antiparticles? It is certainly scarce, or we would have discovered it a long time ago. Still, antiparticles are detectably numerous. Our own bodies make one antielectron every 20 seconds from the decay of potassium-40. Cosmic rays raining down on us supply antiprotons, antielectrons, and even antinuclei. Every proton and neutron – constituents of the nuclei that make up all the matter we can touch – is teeming with antiquarks.

But it is when we look out at the universe as a whole that antimatter's scarcity becomes clear. All galaxies are made of matter, not antimatter. Even in the infant universe, there had to have been a small dissimilarity between the populations of protons and antiprotons for our predictions about the outcomes of the synthesis of nuclei in the early universe and the features of the cosmic microwave background (radiation leftover from the Big Bang) to hold.

That is, for every 1.7 billion proton-antiproton pairs, there should have been an extra unpaired proton.

Presumably the universe started out with equal amounts of matter and antimatter before something happened to distort this symmetry. That's a good thing: otherwise matter and antimatter would have mutually annihilated to fill the universe with nothing but a fog of radiation – no raw material to make stars, planets or us.

But what spoiled the symmetry? Put differently, why is there something around us rather than nothing (but that fog)? Nobody knows for certain. What we do know is that any theory attempting to explain it must satisfy three conditions, called the Sakharov conditions. The best current theory to explain the world, the Standard Model of particle physics, falls woefully short of meeting all of them.

At least this was the lore until the authors of an August 2024 preprint paper pointed out an interesting caveat.

They showed that one of the conditions can be satisfied by the Standard Model alone, provided some new particle species helps with the process of making matter.

An unsettling discovery

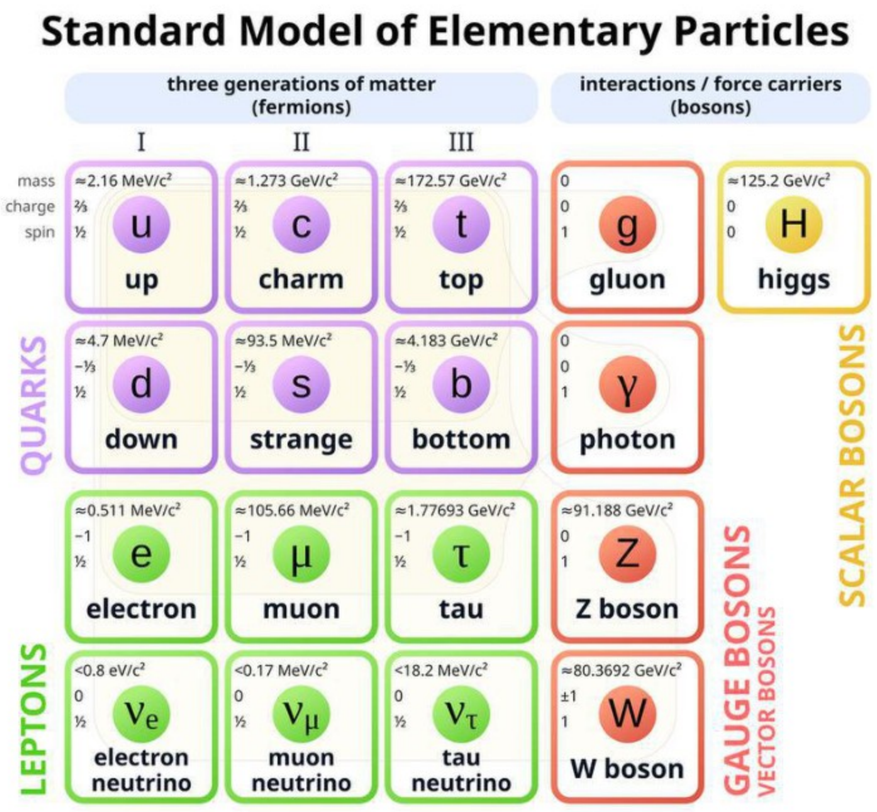
Look at the world in a mirror. Does it look the same? Apples would still fall and moons would circle planets because gravity would be unchanged. Protons and neutrons would cling to form nuclei because the strong nuclear force would be preserved. But atomic nuclei won't undergo radioactive fission because that happens via the weak force. And the weak force, like a vampire, vanishes in the mirror-world.

The discovery of this fact in 1957 was profoundly unsettling because it struck at cherished notions of symmetry in nature. A parity transformation (denoted P) – the act of swapping left and right – appeared to eliminate the weak force. But soon physicists found that if they replaced a particle with its antiparticle in the mirror-world, the weak force reappeared. This action is called charge conjugation (C). It seems the universe didn't conserve P and C separately but did so when they happened together. This is called CP symmetry.

But in 1964, American physicists James Cronin and Val Fitch found that even CP symmetry is violated. And it wasn't violated all the time – which made it more nagging. They found that it was violated around once for every thousand times a process involving the weak force happened in nature. Nine years later, Makoto Kobayashi and Toshihide Maskawa in Japan found that if there were at least three variants of every quark species – with all properties the same except for the mass – CP symmetry violation is unavoidable. And all fermion particles do come in three variants, a.k.a. generations. For instance, the up quark has two other variants: the charm and top quarks. (Around the same time, physicists also found that the strong nuclear force – involved in fission and fusion – ought to violate CP symmetry strongly but doesn't. This is called the strong CP puzzle.)

Now, as soon as CP symmetry violation was confirmed, the Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov realised it's actually an essential condition to create a matter-antimatter asymmetry in the early universe. Unfortunately, the *amount* of CP symmetry violation the Standard Model allowed for (the ~1 in 1,000 rate) proved insufficient to explain the magnitude of the asymmetry. This is where the authors of the August paper have pointed out a loophole. We have known for some time that processes involving mesons – particles made of quark-antiquark pairs – violate CP symmetry, which is just how Cronin and Fitch made their discovery. Now, if a meson could decay to particles not contained in the Standard Model, the matter-antimatter asymmetry could be controlled by the product of two quantities: the amount of standard CP violation and the fraction of decays into the non-standard particles. This fraction can't be too large: otherwise we would have detected the non-standard particles in particle colliders.

The study's conceit, then, is to introduce a mechanism that ensured this fraction was large just in the early universe but evolved to a smaller number today. This can be done if the masses of the new particles vary over time, which is possible to arrange in quantum field theory.



The (current) crop of fundamental particles making up matter as we know it and the different ways they can interact. The W and Z bosons mediate the weak force. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Hard-won progress

This mechanism has thus brought one of the three Sakharov conditions within the reach of the Standard Model five decades since these conditions came to light.

The other two conditions are: (i) A large violation in a type of charge carried by particles, called the baryon number. For example, protons and neutrons have a baryon number of 1 and their antiparticles carry a value of -1. (ii) Interactions must occur out of thermal equilibrium, meaning that particle processes in the forward and backward directions do not occur at the same rate.

While the Standard Model does not meet these conditions adequately, the work discussed here serves as an important step towards understanding why matter overwhelmingly dominates over antimatter in our universe today.

(Nirmal Raj is an assistant professor of theoretical physics at the Centre for High Energy Physics in the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. nraj@iisc.ac.in)

More than three-quarters of the world's land experienced drier conditions from 1970 to 2020 than the previous thirty-year period AFP

UN talks in Riyadh keep focus on land degradation

Associated Press

Much of the earth's lands are drying out and damaging the ability of plant and animal life to survive, according to a United Nations report released Monday at talks where countries are working to address the problem.

The report was released at the UN summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on combating desertification – once-fertile lands turning into deserts because of hotter temperatures from human-caused climate change, lack of water and deforestation. It found that more than three-quarters of the world's land experienced drier conditions from 1970 to 2020 than the previous thirty-year period.

"The drier climates now affecting vast lands across the globe will not return to how they were," said Ibrahim Thiaw, chief of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), which is facilitating the Riyadh talks. "This change is redefining life on earth."

At the talks, which started last week and are set to end on Friday, nations are discussing how better they can help the world deal with droughts – a more urgent lack of water over shorter periods – and the more permanent problem of degrading land.

If global warming trends continue, nearly five billion people – including in most of Europe, parts of the western U.S.,

Farming is particularly at risk, with drier land being less productive and hurting both yields and the availability of food for livestock, the report said

Brazil, eastern Asia and central Africa – will be affected by the drying by the end of the century, up from a quarter of the world's population today, the report warned. UNCCD's chief scientist Barron Orr warned drier land could lead to "potentially catastrophic impacts affecting access to water that could push people and nature even closer to disastrous tipping points," where humans are no longer able to reverse damaging effects of climate change.

Sergio Vicente-Serrano, one of the lead authors of the report, said that as the atmosphere heats up because the burning of coal, oil and gas spews planet-warming emissions, it leads to more evaporation on the ground. That makes water less available for humans, plants and animals, making it harder to survive.

Farming is particularly at risk, with drier land being less productive and hurting both yields and the availability of food for livestock, the report said. That can lead to food insecurity for communities worldwide.

Aridity also leads to more migration, because erratic rainfall, degrading land and frequent water shortages make it harder for regions or nations to develop economically, the report said. It said the trend is especially noticeable in some of the world's driest areas such as southern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and southern Asia. Negotiators in Riyadh are mainly discussing how best the world can respond to more frequent and damaging droughts.

Jes Weigelt, of European climate thinktank TMG, said it's still a sticking point because countries can't agree on whether rich nations should be forking out funds for drought responses around the world. Any money pledged would go towards better forecasting and monitoring systems as well as creating reservoirs and other water-management structures.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The storied lives of hormones

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

On December 10, 1907, the Brown Dog riots in London saw around a thousand medical students clash with police over what the students perceived to be a threat to their ability to conduct _____, a procedure in which a live animal is dissected. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

The Brown Dog riots were a part of the overarching Brown Dog affair, which began when two people in the audience complained that a dog being dissected (as in Q1) by X didn't seem to be sufficiently anaesthetised. Name X, who is credited with the discovery of hormones using one such procedure.

QUESTION 3

Hormones are molecules that are transmitted across a body, like messengers, to regulate physiological changes. Name the plant hormone that was also the first known gaseous hormone used to control when flowers open, when fruits ripen, and when leaves are shed.

QUESTION 4

When a hormone reaches a target cell, it binds to a receptor and launches a series of reactions that allow a signal borne by the hormone to reach the cell's protein-making facility. What is the technical term for this series of reactions?

QUESTION 5

There are four broad ways in which a hormone can transmit its effects: endocrine (released into the blood and acts on cells), paracrine (acts on nearby cells), _____ (acts on the cells that secrete it), and intracrine (acts within a cell without exiting). Fill in the blank.

A 3D model of the hormone melatonin. GETTY IMAGES

Answers to December 3 quiz:

1. Gas responsible for Bhopal disaster – **Ans: Methyl isocyanate**
2. Chemical ingredient used to manufacture Sevin – **Ans: 1-Naphthol**
3. Compound France used as a chemical weapon in World War I – **Ans: Phosgene**
4. Property of methyl isocyanate that makes eyes water – **Ans: Lachrymal**
5. Substance added to methyl isocyanate leading to disaster – **Ans: Water**

Visual: **67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko**

First contact:

K.N. Viswanathan | Jose Joji | Shankar Priyavrat | Basavaraj Meti | Anmol Agrawal

Answers to Decembr 6 quiz:

1. Year when WHO embraced primary healthcare as the basis of universal care – **Ans: 1978**
2. Year when British National Health Service was launched – **Ans: 1948**
3. US president who tried twice to establish universal care – **Ans: Franklin D. Roosevelt**
4. US medical insurance schemes – **Ans: Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, Children's Health Insurance Program**
5. Second component of Ayushman Bharat scheme – **Ans: PMJAY**

Visual: **Launched Affordable Care Act (a.k.a. Obamacare)**

First contact:

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Basavaraj Meti | Jose Joji

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Minor booked for wheeling

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Commercial Street police booked a 15-year-old boy for allegedly performing wheeling stunts on the busy Venkataswamy Naidu Road in Shivajinagar.

The traffic police patrolled the area after receiving complaints from the members of the public about the minor boy performing bike stunts on the road endangering the safety of others. On Saturday, the police intercepted the juvenile riding the scooter along with his friend and seized the two-wheeler.

Suspecting his behaviour, the police subjected the rider to a medical examination, which proved that he was under the influence of marijuana. The police found that the accused had borrowed the scooter from his relative.

The police booked a case under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act and the Juvenile Justice Act. Later, the minor was handed over to the Child Welfare Committee, while the father of the accused was booked and released on station bail.

Meanwhile, the traffic police launched a special drive to curb the incidents of bikers performing dangerous stunts on roads.

Two men murdered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old security guard and his 33-year-old friend were allegedly murdered on the factory premises they were living in New Yelahanka Town police station limits on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Vikram Singh from Nepal, a security guard at the industrial shed, and Soori, from Bihar, who was working as a driver at a garment factory.

The incident came to light when a tea-seller found them lying in a pool of blood on the factory premises. The shifted the bodies for post-mortem.

A probe revealed that the duo had invited their friends to a party the previous night and are suspected to have had an argument. The police said the assailants assaulted the duo with sharp weapons and tiles and escaped.

Kala Vaibhava to be held on December 14

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kala Vaibhava, a two-day event showcasing the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of women's groups, will begin on Saturday.

The event will be held at Sreehari Kalyana Mantapa, Attimabbe Road, Banashankari 3rd stage. It is organised by the Department of Industries and Commerce, in collaboration with the District Industries Centre. Handmade crafts, textiles, organic goods, and home decor items will be on display.

For more details, call 080-23385874 or mail to info@awakeindia.org.in

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Devanahalli toll plaza achieves record with ₹308-cr. collection

The overall toll collection generated by more than 40 toll plazas across the State in 2023-24 is ₹2,859.90 crore, according to data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The Devanahalli toll plaza on Ballari Road in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The Devanahalli (Sadahalli) plaza, situated near Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport, recorded its highest-ever toll collection of ₹308.01 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24. This marks a significant milestone as decade-long data reveals it is the highest among the 42 toll plazas across Karnataka, and a quantum leap from ₹125.75 crore in 2014-15.

The overall toll collection from Karnataka's toll plazas in 2023-24 is ₹2,859.90 crore, generated by over 40 toll plazas across the State, according to data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

In a detailed response to a query raised by a member of the Rajya Sabha on Indian toll plazas, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari shared the data, which highlights a robust growth in toll revenues in the last 10 years (2014-15 to 2023-24).

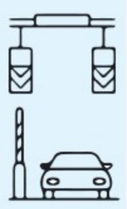
The Bengaluru-Nelamangala Plaza, generated ₹103.41 crore in 2023-24, compared to ₹59.31 crore in 2014-15.

Speaking about the drastic increase in toll collection over the past 10 years, especially on the Bengaluru airport road and the Bengaluru-Nelamangala plaza, which connects the capital city to the rest of Karnataka, traffic expert M.N. Srihari said that such figures underscore the rapid rise in vehicular traffic along this vital economic corridor.

"The steep increase in collections, especially at the Nelamangala and Devanahalli plazas, reflects heightened connectivity demands and urban sprawl surrounding Bengaluru. As Karnataka continues to expand its highway network, toll revenue will remain a critical funding source. However, balancing revenue collection with user satisfaction and ensuring toll-free access after concession periods will be key to maintaining public trust," Mr. Srihari added.

Revenue growth of toll plazas in State

	2014-15	2023-24
Devanahalli (Sadahalli)	₹125.75 crore	₹308.01 crore
Karjeevanhally	₹99.20 crore	₹230.71 crore
Guilalu	₹85.95 crore	₹173.47 crore
Chalageri	₹50.25 crore	₹138.92 crore
Hirebgewadi	₹65.09 crore	₹137.83 crore
Hebbalu	₹40.50 crore	₹128.94 crore
Bagepalli	₹33.14 crore	₹125.63 crore



Alternative road

The Bengaluru airport road, already one of the busiest in the city, is generating significant toll revenue, raising questions about transparency in its management, according to the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA). "It is imperative for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to disclose detailed data on the expenses incurred for the project, toll collected, and the revenue allocated for its maintenance," said Radhakrishna Holla, president of KSTOA.

"One of the primary reasons for the toll collection increase is the heavy cargo movement, in addition to passenger traffic. Therefore, there is an urgent need for an alternative road of international standards to accommodate the rapidly growing demand from both domestic and international travellers. We have been advocating for the development of a new alternative route to the airport through Hennur, Thanisandra, Bagalur, Bandi Kodigehalli, Mylanahalli, Chikkana Halli, and Begur," he added.

"The government collects tolls, but the question is why such exorbitant amounts are being charged. Crores of rupees are being collected, yet there is no transparency on how it is being utilised. Detailed information about toll revenue and its expenditure should be made available in the public domain," said Mahesh Rao, a regular commuter on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway.

Bengaluru-Mysuru highway toll plazas report significant growth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NHAI is exploring the possibility of setting up additional toll plazas on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway

The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway's toll plazas, Kaniminike and Sheshagirihalli, have shown significant year-on-year revenue growth, reflecting the increasing traffic along this critical corridor connecting two important cities in the State.

The Kaniminike toll plaza recorded ₹7.05 crore in 2022-23, which surged dramatically to ₹91.17 crore in 2023-24. Similarly, Sheshagirihalli toll plaza, which reported ₹5.21 crore in 2022-23, experienced a remarkable jump to ₹77.94 crore in 2023-24. The Bengaluru-Mysuru Access Controlled Highway was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 12, 2023.

Meanwhile, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is exploring the possibility of setting up additional toll plazas on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Highway to cater to motorists traveling between intermediate towns, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Mysuru MP, said on Saturday.

He noted that the NHAI has proposed additional works on the highway at an estimated cost of ₹711 crore.

"If new toll plazas are established, motorists would be able to use the highway and pay tolls based on the distance travelled between intermediate locations," he said.

As per NHAI guidelines, the spacing between toll plazas should be 60 km. For shorter stretches, the toll fee must be calculated based on the actual distance covered.

'Real-time monitoring'

In response to a question, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said: "There are no cases of undue user fee collection, as user fee is collected at user fee plazas on National Highways as per applicable National Highway Fee Rules and respective Concession/Contract Agreements."

Mr. Gadkari said that all toll transactions are monitored in real-time, ensuring accurate and timely collection of user fees. "The NPCI and the associated banks monitor daily user fee collections, which are deposited in a central depository bank account and subsequently transferred to the Consolidated Fund of India. Further, NHAI publishes detailed toll revenue reports, including information on user fee rates, collected revenues, and expenditures, making the data accessible to the public and stakeholders in the public domain," he added.

NLSIU to launch new BA (Hons) programme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Law School of India University (NLSIU), Bengaluru, will launch a new Bachelor of Arts (Honours) programme for the upcoming academic year 2025-26, at an event to be held on Tuesday.

"As NLSIU evolves into a multidisciplinary university, we wish to incorporate the same academic excellence and rigour that has shaped our pioneering 5-year BA. LLB (Honours) pedagogy over the last four decades. Our BA programme has been developed combining academic learning with a professional orientation. In addition to a diverse range of careers, this degree will be a pathway to NLSIU's three-Year LL.B. (Honours) programme and the Master's Programme in Public Policy," a release said.

Unique opportunities

"There remain broader questions about how the BA degree programme may be redesigned to meet the key and unique opportunities of work in the fields of publishing, media, development practice, philanthropy, and the arts and letters. The NLS BA (Hons) programme has built upon existing faculty expertise in history, sociology, anthropology, economics, and politics with plans to incorporate other disciplines in the future," the release added.

INTEGRAL COACH FACTORY, CHENNAI - 38
(MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS)
Website : https://pb.icf.gov.in
Employment Notice No. PB/RR/39/Cultural/03/2024-25

RECRUITMENT AGAINST CULTURAL QUOTA FOR THE YEAR 2024-2025

Opening date and time for receipt of application	07.12.2024/ 09.00 Hrs.
Closing date and time for receipt of application	06.01.2025/ 23.59 Hrs.

Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens for Recruitment to fill 2 posts in Pay Level 2 of 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) against Cultural Quota for the year 2024-25 in the following disciplines.

Sl. No.	Discipline	No. of Posts
1.	Classical Dancer in any of the discipline in Bharatanatyam / Kathak (Male)	1
2.	Violinist	1
	Total	2

Please visit our website **https://pb.icf.gov.in** under the link "**APPLY FOR CULTURAL RECRUITMENT (2024-2025)**" for detailed Employment Notification regarding age, educational qualification, minimum Cultural norms, eligibility criteria etc.

Candidates are advised to go through the detailed notification before applying.

Assistant Personnel Officer / WS

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
REWIND 2024
TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 10

1. In February 2024, the Indian government announced plans to establish a naval base on Agatti and Minicoy islands. These islands belong to which union territory?
2. Which movie, released in February 2024 and set in Kodaikanal, became the highest-grossing Malayalam film ever, earning over ₹200 crores?
3. On 26 May 2024, who became the first Indian gymnast to secure a gold medal in any event at the Asian Championships?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/RTQPA** take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Kulasekarapattinam
2. England
3. Spain

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Mithun. S, Faridabad | 2. Nasina Asime, Chennai | 3. Aparna Poorni, Coimbatore

ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ [ರಿ.]
ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ, ದ.ಕ - 574227

ರಾಜರ್ಷಿ ಡಾ. ವಿ. ವೀರೇಂದ್ರ ಹೆಗ್ಗಡೆಯವರ
ಶುಭಾಶೀರ್ವಾದದೊಂದಿಗೆ,
ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 10 ರಿಂದ 15 ರ ವರೆಗೆ
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ವನಜಾಕ್ಷಿ ಕೆ. ಶ್ರೀಪತಿ ಭಟ್ ಬಯಲುರಂಗ ಮಂದಿರ, ವಿವೇಕಾನಂದ ನಗರ, ಪುತ್ತಿಗೆ, ಮೂಡುಬಿದಿರೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ

30ನೇ ವರ್ಷದ
ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್ 2024
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಉತ್ಸವ

ಸಭಾಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ : ರಾಜರ್ಷಿ ಡಾ. ವಿ. ವೀರೇಂದ್ರ ಹೆಗ್ಗಡೆ, ಧರ್ಮಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಶ್ರೀ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಧರ್ಮಸ್ಥಳ
ಸಂಜೆ 05.30 ರಿಂದ 06.30 ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ : ನಾಡೋಜ ಜಿ. ಶಂಕರ್, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಜಿ. ಶಂಕರ್ ಫ್ಯಾಮಿಲಿ ಟ್ರಸ್ಟ್, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಸಂಜೆ 6:35 ರಿಂದ ರಾತ್ರಿ 8:30 — 100 ಕ್ಕಿಂತಲೂ ಅಧಿಕ ದೇಶೀಯ ಜಾನಪದ ಕಲಾತಂಡಗಳಿಂದ 3000ಕ್ಕೂ ಮಿಕ್ಕಿದ ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಂದ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ
ಭವ್ಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ

ರಾತ್ರಿ 8:30-9:30 — ವೇದಘೋಷಗಳು, ಭಜನ್‌ಗಳು, ಪುಷ್ಪಪಲ್ಲಕ್ಕಿಗಳು, ಮಂಗಳವಾದ್ಯಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ವಿಘ್ನನಿವಾರಕ ವಿನಾಯಕ, ಸರಸ್ವತಿ, ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀ, ಹನುಮಂತ, ಶ್ರೀರಾಮ, ಶ್ರೀಕೃಷ್ಣಾದಿ ಆರೂಢ ದೇವರ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆ
ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ರಥ ಸಂಚಲನ ಮತ್ತು ರಥಾರತಿ

11.12.2024, ಬುಧವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 05:45-06:30 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ವಿರಾಸತ್ 2024 ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪ್ರದಾನ
ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ ಪುರಸ್ಕೃತರು:
ಪದ್ಮಶ್ರೀ ಪಂಡಿತ್ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್
ಖ್ಯಾತ ಹಿಂದೂಸ್ಥಾನಿ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರೀಯ ಸಂಗೀತ ಗಾಯಕರು
ಸಂಜೆ 06:35-07:30 : ಹಿಂದೂಸ್ಥಾನಿ ಗಾಯನ
ಪದ್ಮಶ್ರೀ ಪಂಡಿತ್ ವೆಂಕಟೇಶ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಳಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ರಾತ್ರಿ 07:45-09:00 : ವೈವಿಧ್ಯಮಯ ಗುಜರಾತಿ ಜಾನಪದ ನೃತ್ಯ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ
ರಂಗ್ ಮಲ್ಹರ್ ದಿ ಫೋಕ್ ಆರ್ಟ್ಸ್, ಗುಜರಾತ್
ರಾತ್ರಿ 09:00 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ

12.12.2024, ಗುರುವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 05:45 : ದೀಪ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲನ (ಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)
05:55 : ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ
ಸಂಜೆ 06:00-8:00 : ಸಂಗೀತ ಲಹರಿ
ಒಸ್ಮಾನ್ ಮೀರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಬಳಗ, ಗುಜರಾತ್
ರಾತ್ರಿ 08:15 : ನೃತ್ಯ ವೈವಿಧ್ಯ
- ನೃತ್ಯ ನಿಕೇತನ ಕೊಡವೂರು, ಉಡುಪಿ
- ಚಿಗುರು ನೃತ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
- ಸನಾತನ ನಾಟ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
- ನೃತ್ಯ ವಸಂತ ನಾಟ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕುಂದಾಪುರ
- ಗಾನ ನೃತ್ಯ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
- ಅರೆಹೊಳೆ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಾನ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು

09:15 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ

13.12.2024, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 05:45 : ದೀಪ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲನ (ಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)
05:55 : ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ
ಸಂಜೆ 06:00-8:00 : ಸೌಂಡ್ ಆಫ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ - ನೀಲಾದ್ರಿ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು ತಂಡ
ರಾತ್ರಿ 08:15-09:00 : ತ್ರಿಪರ್ಣ- ಭರತನಾಟ್ಯ, ಒಡಿಸ್ಸಿ, ಕಥಕ್ ನೃತ್ಯ ಸಂಗಮ
ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ: ಅಶೀಮ್‌ಬಂಧು ಭಟ್ಟಾಚಾರ್ಜಿ, ಕೋಲ್ಕತ್ತಾ
09:00 : ನೃತ್ಯೋಲ್ಲಾಸ - ಕಾರ್ತಿಸ್ ಪರ್‌ಫಾರ್ಮಿಂಗ್ ಆರ್ಟ್ಸ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ಕೂಚುಪುಡಿ ನೃತ್ಯ - ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಜರಾಜೇಶ್ವರಿ ಕಲಾನಿಕೇತನ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
09:25 : ಆಳ್ವಾಸ್ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ವೈಭವ

14.12.2024, ಶನಿವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆ 05:45 : ದೀಪ ಪ್ರಜ್ವಲನ (ಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)
05:55 : ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಗೆ ಸಾಂಪ್ರದಾಯಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ
06:00-09:00 : ಖ್ಯಾತ 25 ಕಲಾವಿದರಿಂದ ಮೂರು ಗಂಟೆಗಳ ಭರ್ಜರಿ ಸಂಗೀತ ರಸದೌತಣ ಸ್ಟೇಕೇಟೋ, ಚೆನ್ನೈ
ರಾತ್ರಿ 09:00 : ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ರಥ ಸ್ವಸ್ಥಾನ ಗಮನ

15.12.2024, ಭಾನುವಾರ
ಸಂಜೆಯ ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

10 ರಿಂದ 15 ಡಿಸೆಂಬರ್ 2024
ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರಾಟ ಮಹಾಮೇಳ
- ಕೃಷಿ ಮೇಳ - ಆಹಾರ ಮೇಳ - ಫಲಪುಷ್ಪ ಮೇಳ
- ಕರಕುಶಲ ಮತ್ತು ಪ್ರಾಚ್ಯವಸ್ತು ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಮೇಳ
- ಚಿತ್ರಕಲಾ ಮೇಳ - ಕಲಾಕೃತಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ - ಛಾಯಾಚಿತ್ರಗಳ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ

ಉಚಿತ ಪ್ರವೇಶ
ನಿಮ್ಮ ಆಗಮನದ ನಿರೀಕ್ಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ
ಡಾ| ಎಂ. ಮೋಹನ ಆಳ್ವ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ವಿಶ್ವಸ್ಥ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ಆಡಳಿತ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಸದಸ್ಯರು, ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ವರ್ಗ, ಪ್ರಾಂಶುಪಾಲರು, ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು, ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವೃಂದ

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of new faces in AAP's second list of candidates

18 The Aam Aadmi Party released its second list of 20 candidates for the upcoming Delhi assembly polls, dropping 18 sitting MLAs and moving two others, including senior leader and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia, to new seats. Mr. Sisodia will now contest from Jangpura. PTI

Retail inflation for farm workers in the month of October

5.96 In per cent. Retail inflation for farm workers and rural labourers eased to 5.96% and 6%, in October from 6.36% and 6.39% in September. The All-India Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers registered an increase of 11 points in October. PTI

Bihar's abysmal sex-ratio at birth in 2022-23

894 The Bihar government is alarmed over the State's abysmal "sex ratio at birth" (SRB), and has decided to strictly implement measures for checking female foeticide. The SRB — the number of female births per 1,000 male births — has been declining in the State. PTI

Number of people killed in Haiti's capital due to gang violence

184 The UN rights chief said that 184 people had been killed over the weekend in the Haitian capital, rocked by a spike in gang violence. The violence was orchestrated by the leader of a powerful gang in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, in the Cite Soleil area. AFP

The increase in India's copper demand in the fiscal year of 2024

13 In per cent. India's copper demand grew by 13% annually to hit 1,700 kilo tonnes in FY24, driven by the rapid pace of infrastructure development and building constructions, the International Copper Association India said on Monday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

On reforms in merchant shipping

Have the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, and the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838 failed in addressing the contemporary needs of the merchant marine sector? What are some of the international maritime conventions that India has ratified? Will the new Bills address maritime training and education as well?

EXPLAINER

Amitabh Kumar

The story so far:

The Government is preparing to introduce several significant bills aimed at driving much-needed reforms in the shipping industry. Key among them are the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 and the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, both of which promise to bring transformative changes to boost the sector.

Why a new bill?

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, and the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838, which the new bills aim to repeal, have become outdated and fail to address the contemporary needs of the merchant marine sector. Significant regulatory gaps exist, particularly for vessels operating in the offshore sector which comprise nearly 50% of Indian-flagged vessels. Furthermore, maritime training was liberalised allowing private sector participation, yet there is no legal framework in the existing Act to regulate their activities effectively.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, also restricts seafarers' welfare provisions to Indian-flagged ships, despite 85% of the 2,80,000 active Indian seafarers working on foreign-flagged vessels. Additionally, the Act lacks enabling provisions for implementing certain international conventions that India has signed or plans to ratify. Crucially, the outdated, license-era provisions of the Act have become a roadblock to modernising maritime administration, which needs to transition from being a mere regulator to a regulator-cum-facilitator, thereby promoting the 'ease of doing business.'

What are the features of the Merchant Shipping Bill?

The Merchant Shipping Bill introduces significant changes to modernise India's maritime framework, drawing upon the best practices of leading maritime jurisdictions like the U.K., Norway, and Singapore. Some of the key reform measures include:

i) Ease of registration: the existing law restricts vessel registration to entities with 100% Indian ownership. The new Bill proposes significant reforms to attract foreign investment. It also reduces the ownership threshold for Indian citizens/entities from 100% to 51%, enabling more flexibility. It allows Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs), Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), and Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) to own and register Indian vessels. This is in line with the law of the U.S. where Green card holders are permitted to own American flagships or Singapore law where permanent residents can own ships of their flags. It also permits foreign entities to hold shares in Indian vessels while ensuring majority ownership remains with Indian entities, NRIs, or OCIs.

Additionally, the Bill allows the registration of vessels chartered by Indian entities under the bareboat charter-cum-demise, enabling entrepreneurs to acquire ownership of vessels at the end of the charter period. This provision, particularly beneficial for capital-deficient entrepreneurs, facilitates entry into the shipping industry without upfront investment.

India is the second largest ship recycling centre after Bangladesh, and the ship recycling industry practises the concept of cash purchase of the vessel before it is brought for demolition. Often it becomes difficult for cash buyers to register the vessels for their final voyage, as they no more remain 'seaworthy'. To address challenges faced by the ship recycling industry, the Bill introduces provisions for temporary registration of vessels destined for demolition. This measure is expected to bolster activities at India's ship recycling hubs like Alang.

ii) Enlarging the scope of vessels: the existing Act regulates only mechanised ships (engine-fitted vessels) above a certain size, leaving smaller mechanised vessels and all non-mechanised vessels outside its ambit. This regulatory gap has allowed many vessels to operate without adequate oversight. India's offshore drilling sector gained prominence in 1974 when Sagar Samrat, a merchant vessel designed for exploratory offshore drilling, drilled the first well in Bombay High. Since then, the offshore sector has employed a diverse range of mechanised and non-mechanised vessels, such as accommodation barges, work barges, submersibles, and drones. However, these vessels remain either unregulated or inadequately regulated under the current framework, exposing the sector to operational and safety risks.

The new Bill seeks to address this issue by expanding the definition of 'vessels' to uniformly include a wide range of crafts, including submersibles, semi-submersibles, hydrofoils, non-displacement crafts, amphibious crafts, wing-in-ground crafts, pleasure crafts, barges, lighters, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units (MODUs), and Mobile Offshore Units (MOUs), whether mechanised or not. This definition is expected to enhance transparency and ensure comprehensive regulatory oversight in the offshore sector.

Furthermore, the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, which exploited gaps in maritime security, underscored the urgent need for stricter regulation of all categories of vessels. By empowering authorities to issue instructions to all types of vessels, the new Bill aims to strengthen coastal security, making India's coastline safer and more secure.

Quick change: Catamaran boats pass by a merchant navy ship anchored off Visakhapatnam. FILE PHOTO

What about marine pollution?

The Government has recently undertaken several initiatives to minimise pollution from shipping activities. Some of the measures include reducing the sulphur content in marine fuel from 3.5% to less than 0.5%, banning the use of single-use plastics on Indian ships, and launching the online portal 'Swachh Sagar' to facilitate the proper disposal of ship-generated waste at Indian ports.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has adopted several conventions aimed at preventing and combating marine pollution, such as the Civil Liability Convention (CLC), the Convention on Limitation of Liability on Maritime Claims (LLMC), the Bunker Convention, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), and the Wreck Removal Convention. The existing law, however, has either omitted or partially implemented these conventions. The new Bill fully incorporates these international conventions, aligning India's maritime regulatory framework with global standards. This comprehensive approach reinforces India's commitment to combating marine pollution and safeguarding the maritime environment for sustainable shipping practices.

What are provisions for seafarers'?

The remarkable growth in the number of Indian seafarers employed on foreign-flagged ships over the last 7-8 years stands out as one of the biggest success stories in Indian merchant shipping. The workforce has grown from 1,16,000 in 2015-16 to 2,85,000 today, with nearly 85% of these seafarers serving on foreign-flagged vessels.

However, the existing Act lacks provisions for the welfare and safety of this vast workforce working on foreign-flagged vesels. The proposed Bill addresses this gap by extending the scope of welfare measures initiated by the Union government to include Indian seafarers working on foreign-flagged ships as well. Furthermore, it seeks to extend the protections and benefits outlined in the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) to all Indian seafarers, ensuring better working conditions, safety standards, and support systems for those contributing to the global maritime industry.

What about maritime training?

Under Entry 25 of List 1 (Union List) of the Constitution, the Union Government is responsible for the education and training of the mercantile marine and the regulation of such education and training provided by States and other agencies. In the past, maritime training was primarily conducted by government-run institutions directly under the administrative control of the maritime regulator, the Director General of Shipping. Consequently, there was no need for a specific legal framework to regulate these institutions.

However, following economic liberalisation, maritime training was opened to the private sector. Today, over 160 maritime training institutes operate across the country, yet their activities are governed solely by rules, government orders, and notifications rather than an enabling legal framework. This regulatory gap has allowed unauthorised institutes to operate without obtaining proper approvals, making it challenging for the maritime administration to take action against offenders.

The proposed Bill seeks to address this significant anomaly by introducing clear legal provisions for regulating maritime training in line with the constitutional mandate. This step is expected to eliminate illegal maritime training institutes and associated fraudulent practices, which often exploit unsuspecting rural youth, while ensuring the delivery of high-quality, standardised maritime education nationwide.

Is there a focus on coastal shipping?

The Government has taken a significant step by distinguishing between the technical regulation of ships and the commercial utilisation of Indian coastal waters, removing provisions related to the latter from the Merchant Shipping Act. These aspects, including licensing, permissions for operations along the Indian coast and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), creation of a coastal plan involving the Union and States, and the integration of inland and coastal shipping, have been incorporated into the proposed Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024. This focused approach aims to foster growth and development of the Indian coastal sector.

The move aligns with the Government's flagship 'Sagarmala' program, which emphasises the promotion of coastal shipping through initiatives like dedicated berths for coastal vessels and enhanced hinterland connectivity for coastal cargo movement. Infrastructure development and a robust regulatory framework must progress simultaneously, making the introduction of the Coastal Shipping Bill both timely and essential.

Maritime development, like any developmental initiative, should remain bipartisan and above party politics. By fostering investment, enhancing safety, combating marine pollution, and supporting seafarers' welfare, the proposed reforms promise to unlock the true potential of India's maritime sector.

Amitabh Kumar is Former Director General Shipping, Government of India. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 introduces significant changes to modernise India's maritime framework, drawing upon the best practices of leading maritime jurisdictions like the U.K., Norway, and Singapore.
- Under Entry 25 of List 1 (Union List) of the Constitution, the Union Government is responsible for the education and training of the mercantile marine and the regulation of such education and training provided by States and other agencies.
- The Government has recently undertaken several initiatives to minimise pollution from shipping activities. Some of the measures include reducing the sulphur content in marine fuel from 3.5% to less than 0.5%, banning the use of single-use plastics on Indian ships etc.

Non-veg food on 'restricted items' list at Kannada sahitya sammelana triggers controversy

Activists staging a protest by eating eggs in front of the Mandya Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The issue of categorising non-vegetarian food among "restricted items" at the 87th Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, to be held in Mandya from December 20, has led to a controversy. The trigger was the Kannada Sahitya Parishat (KSP) including non-vegetarian food, along with alcohol and tobacco, among "restricted items" at the sammelana venue.

The KSP later removed non-vegetarian food from the "restricted items" list on its website. Though meat has never been served by the organisers at any sammelana in the past, it has never been explicitly listed as a restricted item either.

Without commenting on the U-turn directly, KSP president Mahesh Joshi said there are committees at the district level for food arrangement at the sahitya sammelana and it has nothing to do with KSP. "A 35-member panel headed by A.B. Ramesh Babu Bandisidde Gowda, MLA, will manage the catering arrangements," he said.

The earlier list of restricted items had created a furore and some organisations had demanded that non-vegetarian be served at the event. Activists under the banner of Federation of Progressive Organisations protested by eating eggs in front of the Mandya Deputy Commissioner's office on Monday.

"Disallowing non-vegetarian food is undemocratic. Especially so when Mandya district is famous for non-veg food," said Krishne Gowda, one of the protesters.

In *Manasollasa* written by Chalukya king Someshwara III in the 12th-13th Century, there is a huge list of non-vegetarian foods. In such a situation, banning non-vegetarian food is ridiculous, the protesters argued.

They demanded that the restriction on non-vegetarian food at the sammelana's commercial outlets be lifted and free access provided. They also demanded that chicken and eggs be served to all along with vegetarian meals. They warned that if non-vegetarian food was not allowed, chicken and eggs would be collected from the public and served to everyone at the event.

Man ends life; probe on

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old senior executive of a private company allegedly died by suicide at his apartment at Munekolala in Marathahalli on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Atul Subhash. A native of Uttar Pradesh, Atul was living alone after separating from his wife.

He left behind a 40-page death note, along with a message to an NGO seeking help. The police said Atul's wife had filed a case against him for domestic violence recently, and we suspect that this could be the reason behind the incident. However, a detailed probe has been launched into the matter.

Based on the complaint by one of his neighbours, the police have registered a case of unnatural death, charging his wife and her relatives for abetment.

(Those in distress or those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani Ph.: 104 for help.)

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, DEC. 10
RISE 06:31 SET 17:54
RISE 13:37 SET 01:18

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11
RISE 06:31 SET 17:55
RISE 14:19 SET 02:12

THURSDAY, DEC. 12
RISE 06:32 SET 17:55
RISE 15:06 SET 03:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	18
Bengaluru	29	19

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning wil be slight cool and hazy. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be slight cool. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be slight cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/38/2024 dated 03/12/2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Auction for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx.Value
Londa-Miraj section -Construction of ROB at Km.613/800-900 in lieu of LC No 392 between Belagavi-Sambre station as 1x36m Composite Girder clear span (Railway Portion) with 5x18.71m PSC Girder (NH end) and 6x18.71 m PSC girder (Mutaga end) and CC block in approaches between Belagavi and Sambre stations (Composite Work). **(Tender Ref. No.: LD-MRJ-ROB-LC-392)**	Rs. 32,31,48,990/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.00 hrs on 30.12.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/615/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that our client intends to purchase the property described in the Schedule hereunder from its lawful owner **Sri. KRISHNA KESAVELU**, son of late Kesavelu and late H.S. Shashikala, residing at No.63, 2nd Main Road, Near Rajesh Hotel, Vyalikaval, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru - 560003, who is the absolute owner of Schedule Property.

Any person or persons other than the Vendor having any claim or interest in or to the Schedule Property, or any part thereof in any manner is/are required to forward their claim on or to the property to the undersigned at their office along with the relevant documents thereof, within **Seven days** from the date of publication of this notice in this newspaper. In the absence of any claims within the above said period, it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made it shall be deemed to have been waived and our client will proceed with the transaction without any further reference in this regard.

SCHEDULE

Residential property bearing **Site No.63, Municipal Corporation No.25 and PID No.5-24-25,** situated at **2nd Main Road, Vyalikaval, Malleshwaram,** Bengaluru, BBMP Ward No.65 of Kadumalleshwara, **totally measuring 4050 Square feet** together with old building constructed thereon and bound as follows:

East : 80 feet Road;
West : Site bearing No.100;
North : Site bearing No.62;
South : 40 feet Road.

Place: Bengaluru, Date : 10.12.2024

HJK LAW PARTNERS, Advocates
No.1038, 1st Floor, Dr. Rajkumar Road Rajajinagar 4th Block
Bangalore-560 010. L: 080 23151715;
M: 9845364814 / 8310960526
Email: rekha@hjklawpartners.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is notified to the General Public at large that, my Client **Sri. RPCR Naidu** has filed a suit against **Sri. Vijaya Kumar. B**, and others vide O.S. No. 26132/2024, pending adjudication before the Hon'ble City Civil Judge (CCH-20) Mayo Hal Unit Bangalore with regard to Schedule mentioned Property and the Hon'ble Court was pleased to grant ad interim injunction restraining the Defendants from alienating the Schedule Property hence the General Public are hereby notified/ informed not to deal with **Sri. Vijaya Kumar. B** or any other person claiming through said Vijaya Kumar. B and other with regard to suit schedule property in any manner.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing Sy. No. 52/5, situated at: **Bommanahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** measuring to an extent of **1 acre 13 guntas**, bounded on the-

East by: Gundu Thopu
West by: Land of Gundappa and Kempanna
North by: Land Dodda Venktappa,
South by: Bandi Dari.

The above said property is duly Converted for Industrial Purpose No. BDIS.ALN.SR.1804, dated 06-09-1966, issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore Dist.

Sd/-
KHAN & CO
Advocates and Consultants,
No.42/2, First Floor, Sai Baba Temple Road, Cambridge Layout, Halasuru, Bangalore- 560 008.
Ph: 9900340777, 9880658825

CORRIGENDUM

Public notice of our client re purchase of properties from **Sri. Jayaram S/o Sri. Narayanaswamy** published on **Page 2 of issue dated December 7, 2024** may please be read along with the following paragraph, which was inadvertently omitted.

" It is therefore requested that the general public who have any claim over the schedule properties or objection for the proposed purchase shall lodge such claim/objection in writing along with supporting documents, with the undersigned, **within 15 days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such claim or objection is received, our client will complete the deal as proposed. Time barred claim / objection if any will not be binding on our client ".

P.Mahalinga Bhat and Srividya P.M,
Advocates,
Office Address: No.2386,T F-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, Pipeline Road, K.S. Layout, Bangalore – 560 078.
Mobile - 9341215791, 9481806159.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of the General Public, that **Manjunatha Raja Urs B.K.**, aged about 34 years, s/o. Late. Shridhara Raja Urs B.K., R/at No. 22/23, Vijayalakshmi Nilaya, Bio-Soft International City, Opp. Maddurappa Temple, Heelalige Village, Chandapura Post, Anekal Taluk, BENGALURU – 560 099, is the full and absolute owner of the Property bearing Southern Portion of Site No. 23 Khatha No. 796 Property No. 223/23 situated at Heelalige Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, measuring East to West 51 feet and North to South 20 feet, in all measuring 1020 square feet which is morefully described in the schedule below, having purchased from previous owner/Zakir Hussian under Sale Deed dated 23/08/2018 registered as Document No. ABL-1-03225/2018-19 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. ABLD 323 in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Attibele, Bangalore.

It is further notified to the General Public that the earlier owner/Zakir Hussain had acquired the scheduled property from his previous owner/K. Boopathy is represented by his attorney holder/G. Loknath under Sale Deed dated 12/09/2014 registered as Document No. BSK-1-07083/2014-15 of Book – I stored in C.D. No. BSKD 283 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Banashankari, Bangalore, is lost. A Police complaint in this regard is lodged with the Jurisdictional Police/Bangalore City vide Lost Report No.1557/2024 dated 21/11/2024. It is hereby requested that if any person/s comes across or finds the same, he/she/they are requested to hand over the same to the below-mentioned address and they will be compensated accordingly.

The General Public is hereby further cautioned that if anybody deals with the Schedule Property with any person/s based on the misplaced/lost document mentioned above, it is at their own risk and cost and such person/s will not derive any title over the Schedule Property and in such an event they have no claim of whatsoever nature against Manjunath Raja Urs B K nor against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Southern Portion of Site No. 23 Khatha No. 796 Property No. 223/23 as per Chandapura TMC Assessment No. 1737/924/223/23/1A formed in Sy. No. 17/1 in the layout known and called as "Bio-Soft International City" situated at **Heelalige Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring East to West 51 feet and North to South 20 feet, in all measuring **1020 square feet** and bounded on: -

East by : Road; West by : Private Property;, North by : Remaining Portion of same Site No. 23 & South by : Site No.24.

Shri. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
Office at No. 312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross, VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 070

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME STATION CELL (ECHS CELL), BANGALORE, **TELE NO 080-25322873**
E-mail: echscellbangalore@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites application to engage following **Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff** on contractual basis in ECHS polyclinics located at Madikeri, Shimoga, Bangalore (MEG), Virajpet & Mangalore for a **period of one year renewable for additional period of one year / till attaining the maximum age subject to performance of candidates / other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post:-**

Category	Basic qualification and Work experience	Name of Polyclinic: Madikeri	Shimoga	Bangalore (MEG)	Virajpet	Mangalore	No's of Vac	Fixed Remuneration	Remarks
Med Spl	MD/MS in General Medicine, Minimum 05 years in speciality after post Graduation	-	-	01	-	-	01	1,00,000/-	60% of Vacancy reserved for ESM
Medical Offr	MBBS, Minimum 05 yeas after internship preferable addl qualification in medicine/surgery	-	01	-	01	-	02	75,000/-	
Dental Offr	BDS, Minimum 05 years work experience	01	01	01	01	01	05	75,000/-	
Lab Tech	BSc (MTL)/DTLT, Minimum 03 years Experience as Lab Assistant in Medical Lab	01	01	01	01	-	04	28,100/-	
Lab Assistsnt	DMLT/Class I Lab Tech Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years work experience in Lab	01	-	01	-	-	02	28,100/-	70% of vacancy reserved for ESM
Pharmacist	B Pharmacy/Diploma in Pharmacy and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948, Minimum 03 years Work Experience	01	-	01	01	-	03	28,100/-	
Nursing Asst	GNM Diploma/Class I NAC (ESM) & Minimum 05 years experience	-	01	-	01	01	03	28,100/-	
Dental Hygienist	Diploma in DH/Class I DH/DORA Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years expeience in Dental Laboratory	01	-	-	01	-	02	28,100/-	
Clerk	Graduate/Class I Clk Trade (ESM), Computer Qualifications, Minimum 05 years experience	01	01	01	01	01	05	22,500/-	
Driver	Class 8th /Class I MT Driver (ESM), Possession Civil driving licence. Minimum 05 years experience as driver	01	-	-	-	01	02	19,700/-	
Female Attendant	Literate, Minimum 05 years experience in Civil/Army Health institution	01	01	-	-	01	03	16,800/-	
Chowkidar	Class 8th or GD Trade (ESM)	-	-	01	01	-	02	16,800/-	
Peon	Class 8th or GD Trade (ESM) & Minimum 5 years service	01	-	-	-	-	01	16,800/-	

2. **For Terms & Conditions, Application form & Remuneration**. Kindly contact with concerned ECHS Polyclinic for the same / see website **www.echs.gov.in.** For additional details contact Station Cell (ECHS Cell) Bangalore **Tele No 080-25322873 & email ID: echscellbangalore@gmail.com. Approach ECHS Polyclinic concerned for details if required**. Preference will be given to the Ex-servicemen. **Priority** will be accorded **to Veer Naris / Widows of ESM** within the ambit of Govt instrs.

3. **Last date for receipt of application as per format is 31 December 2024**. Applications as per requisite format alongwith self-attested photocopies of testimonials in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road, Bangalore-560001 by **31 December 2024 (1400h)**. Any **application received after 31 December 2024 (1400h) will not be accepted.**

4. **Interview Date, Timing & Venue**. Only **shortlisted candidates will be called for interview** at ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore. Interviews will be held in **1st week of January 2025** at Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore **between 0900h to 1500h**. Candidates must **bring all the original certificate/mark sheets/degree of 10th/Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post-Graduation/Diploma/Course, work experience, discharge book, PPO**, service records and two PP size color photograph at the time of interview. No TA/DA claim is admissible.

Government of India
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

PUBLIC NOTICE ON USER FEE (TOLL) RATES AT CHOWLAGERE TOLL PLAZA APPLICABLE FROM 16.12.2024

The public are hereby informed that pursuant fee notification in the Gazette vide SO. No. 4791(E) dated : 28.10.2024 by MORTH and approval of user fee rates vide letter dated 03.12.2024 of NHAI, the User fee rates for use of section from Ch. 184+912 to 209+800 and 216+700 to 220+000 i.e, 28.188 Km. (Hassan to Maranahally section) of NH-75 is going to be started w.e.f.16.12.2024 at Chowlagere Toll Plaza (Chainage:193.020 Km., near Chowlagere village Hassan District) in the State of Karnataka:

Amount in Rs.

Category of Vehicle	Fee for single journey (in Rupees)	Fee for return Journey within a day (in Rupees)	Fee for monthly pass for 50 single journey in a month (in Rupees)	Fee for commercial vehicles registered within the district of Plaza
Car/ Jeep/ Van or Light Motor Vehicle	50	75	1620	25
Light Commercial Vehicle, Light Goods Vehicle or Mini Bus	80	120	2615	40
Truck or Bus (2 Axle)	165	245	5480	80
3 Axle Commercial Vehicle	180	270	5975	90
Heavy Construction Machinery (HCM) or Earth Moving Equipment(EME) or Multi Axle Vehicle(MAV) (4 to 6 Axles)	260	385	8590	130
Oversized Vehicle (7 or more axle)	315	470	10460	155
The rate for monthly pass applicable for local non-commercial vehicle residing within a distance of 20 km from the toll plaza shall be Rs.340				

Note: Aforementioned Concessions can be availed only through GoI's FASTag program as per NHAI Policy Circular No.NHAI/13013/CO/2019-20/147464 dt. 15.01.2020 & NHAI Policy Guideline/ Management of Monthly Passes/2018, Policy No. 17.5.78 dt. 16.02.2018.

2. The above section was developed as per provisions of Contract Agreement dated 11.05.2016 on EPC mode and Authority Engineer vide letter dated 10.10.2024 certified the completed length of 28.188 Km. for putting on commercial operation. The above rates are applicable for a completed length of 28.188 Km, which comprises of following:

Type of section	Length (Km)	Equivalent Length(Km.) for which user fee is to be levied	Lane Configuration
Straight Section	22.050	22.050	4 Lane
Bypasses (costing> Rs.10.0 Cr.)	5.920	5.920	4 Lane
Structures (length>60M)	0.218	0.218	4 Lane

3. The following concessions are available at above toll plaza:
i. Return Journey within 24 Hours from time of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount 25%)
ii. 50 single journey in a month from date of payment for all categories of vehicles (discount-33%)
iii. Pass at Rs.340.00/- per calendar month for non-commercial vehicle residing within 20 Km. from Toll Plaza.
iv. Commercial Vehicle (excluding those plying under national permit) registered in the District of Toll Plaza (discount 50%)

4. The list of exempted vehicles is as given in the Amendment to Fee Rules dated 03.12.2010 vide GSR 950(E).

5. The vehicle, which is loaded in excess of permissible load, shall pay 10 times the applicable fee rate and remove the excess load to make use of highway.

6. The Capital Cost of the Project is Rs. 1021.57 Crore. The user fee (toll) rates shall be reduced to 40% on recovery of capital cost.

7. For viewing the fee notification dated 2008 & its Amendments published in the Gazette, letter of NHAI dated 03.12.2024 containing approval of rates, etc, the website **http://nhaitis.org** may be visited.

8. For any enquiry and or giving complaints/suggestions, please contact Project Director, NHAI, Project Implementation Unit, 44/1, A1, 1st Main, Kuvempu Road, Indranagar, Sathyamangala Layout, Hassan-573201 (Ph:08172-240215).

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
(Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023, Telephone: **080-29557023**
E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com & cekhsdrp-hfws@karnataka.gov.in**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-1,2&3/Tender/2024-25/2611 Date: 07.12.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in Two Tender document system in KPPP for the following works.

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approx. Amount Put to tender (Excluding GST) (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Unit in **SSH CIMS premises Chikkamagaluru**	723.00	10.85	11 Months
2	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Unit Hospital in the premises **MCGGAN Hospital at SIMS Shivamogga**	1335.00	15.00	11 Months
3	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care unit on existing OBG block in Ground floor **HIMS** premises, Hassan	978.00	14.70	11 Months
4	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Block in the premises of **VIMS, Ballari**	1006.00	15.00	11 Months
5	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Unit in PKTB Hospital premises KRS Road Mysuru	1370.00	15.00	11 Months
6	Construction of 50 bed Critical Care Unit in KMCRI premises, Hubli	1335.00	15.00	11 Months
7	Construction of 50 Bed Critical Care Unit of existing Library Block in Ground and First Floor MIMS premises, Mandya	1330.00	15.00	11 Months
8	Construction of Taluk Health office in Challakere Taluk Chitradurga District	125.67	2.00	6 Months

i) Calendar of Events: For Sl.No.1 to 7 : (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **10.01.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**
(2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **13.01.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**
ii) Calendar of Events: For Sl.No.8: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **26.12.2024 up to 16.00 hrs.**
(2) Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids) : **27.12.2024 at 16.30 hrs.**

The tender details can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: (1) All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids / individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. (2) Henceforth, any changes in the schedule / contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

CLASSIFIEDS MART
TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ATTENTION !! CLASS 10th & 11th STUDENTS
Study 5 Years LAW Degree From
NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES
CLAT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2025 – 26
FREE COACHING FOR 100 STUDENTS*
Apply Now
LPSAT
Law Prep Scholarship Admission Test
Date : 15th Dec 2024
Eligibility : 10th & 11th Studying Students
Time : 2 - 3 PM
Location : Bangalore
JAI KUMAR AIR 1 CLAT 2024
LPT CLASS ROOM STUDENT (ID: 30574762)
Limited Seats...
Registration Closes On 10th December
+91 97423 76459
OUR BENGALURU CENTERS
JAYANAGAR VIJAYANAGAR MALLESHWARAM
LAW PREP Tutorial
Scan to Apply
www.lawpreptutorial.com
Registration Fees : INR 49

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I S.Premavathi W/O, Dinesh Babu S S R/o 353, Ahad city, Mandya District - 571438 have changed my name to Premavathi D.

I, Vanitha Srinivasan D/o Srinivasan P T R/o Flat No A107, Asn Gardenia, A Block, Visweswara Road, Horamavu, Bangalore- 560043 have changed my name to Vanitha Ambrose for all purposes.

I, VENKATRAMA Iyer, S/O: Ramakrishnan, R/O: No 216 B Block 2nd Floor, Rainbow Apartment, Kengeri MN RD Uttarahalli, Bengaluru-560061, Have Changed My Name As Venkataraman. Afdvt Dtd 05/12/2024

I, SWETHA Jayesh Mehta, D/O: Appanna Mamidi, R/O: No–117, Flt No–401, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Anugraha Layout, BTM LYT 2NDSTG, Bengaluru–560076, Have Changed my Name to Swetha Mamidi Affidavit on 09/12/24.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAYESH Mehta, S/O: Maheshkumar Jeram Mehta, R/O: No–117, Flt No–401, 1st Main, 2nd Cross, Anugraha Layout, BTM LYT 2NDSTG, Bengaluru–560076, Have changed my name to Jayesh Maheshkumar Mehta, Affidavit on 09/12/24.

I, GOMATI Yaduttam Avadhani, r/at Flat No.F-1, 7th Cross Road, ITI Layout, Near Rajashekara Hospital, J.P.Nagar, 1st Phase, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name as Gomati Avadhani vide affidavit dtd 07.12.2024 sworn before Notary A.R.Munner Ahmed, Bluru.

I, SREENIVASA Reddy Dayyala, S/o Venkatramana Reddy Dayyala, R/at No.71 Apartment, No.RB, T2, 3rd Floor, 6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560003, have changed my name from Sreenivasa Reddy Dayyala to Sreenivasa Reddy vide affidavit dated 09/12/2024 sworn before Uday Kumar.K, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE VI ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE AT MYSORE
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 902 OF 2023
Between :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007 And having Branch office ICICI Bank Ltd. retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2, 3, 4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore-570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh. K. M. S/o Mahadevaish P., aged about 39 years ...Plaintiff
And
Defendant :
Sathish T.
Aged above 47 years, Son of Thimmaiah, R/at. No. 1500 Kere Angala, Near Medical Center, Halahalli, Mandya Sist- 571401 ...Defendant

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant
Sathish T.
Aged above 47 years,
Son of Thimmaiah, R/at No. 1500 Kere Angala, Near Medical Center, Halahalli, Mandya Sist- 571401

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 5,09,107/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader on the 20th day of January, 2025 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 05th day of December, 2024.

By the order of the Court
Chief Ministerial officer
Court of Senior Civil Judge and CJM Mysore.

Advocate for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No. 4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, BENJAMIN Judah Ben, S/o Edwin Meshak Jonathan, R/a No.4, 3rd Cross, Mother Mary School, Rama Murthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016 hereby state that my name has been entered in Aadhaar Card, School records and Birth Certificate of my Daughter Abigail Beryl Benjamin as Benjamin Judah Ben and my name has been mentioned in my Daughter's Passport as Benjamin Judah Ben Meshak Jonathan, I also state that both the names Benjamin Judah Ben and Benjamin Judah Ben Meshak Jonathan belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide affidavit dt: 09.12.2024 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, B'lore

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In remembrance: Priest Olivier Ribadeau Dumas leads the Eucharist during a mass open to the public at the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral, in Paris, France, on December 8. REUTERS

A dialogue with our fragile past: the importance of historical memory

The world needs to look differently at its historical memory and the cultural heritage which embodies it. The large fire that broke out in Paris and which consumed a part of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in 2019, is a grim reminder that centuries of heritage can be destroyed in minutes

Ramin Jahanbegloo

On December 7, the Notre Dame de Paris or the Cathedral of Notre Dame was re-opened after a massive fire destroyed its roof and spire five years ago in 2019. In this article, dated April 20, 2019, Ramin Jahanbegloo explains the importance of historical memory and why it is imperative to preserve it, however fragile.

It is only after our heritage is destroyed, in natural disasters and conflicts, that we realise how fragile historical memory is – even for a globalised period of history like ours. The large fire that broke out in Paris on Monday and which consumed a part of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame , is a grim reminder that centuries of heritage can be destroyed in minutes. Of course the French people can rebuild the physical structure and in this enterprise they will be certainly supported by the vast wealth of Europe, America and others, made possible by centuries of industrialisation and capital accumulation. But rebuilding the Notre-Dame de Paris does not mean that we can necessarily renew its original spirit – of blocks of sandstones which narrate their own geological and social history. Undoubtedly, for over 800 years, the cathedral has been the driving force behind the eternal return of Paris as the 'Heart of the World'.

Repository of history

As a powerful spiritual symbol of Christian faith, it counts many treasures, such as the crown of thorns, which are believed to have been placed on Jesus Christ's head. Joan of Arc was beatified in the cathedral in 1909, after her execution for heresy in 1431.

And, for more than three centuries, Notre-Dame has stood as a symbol of political change in France. During the French Revolution, its treasures were plundered.

However, as seen in the famous painting of Jacques-Louis David, Napoleon Bonaparte crowned himself emperor of France at Notre-Dame in 1804. Other famous political ceremonies of the 20th and 21st centuries in France, such as the liberation of Paris from Nazi occupation in 1944, the farewell to Charles de Gaulle in 1970, and a requiem mass in tribute to François Mitterrand in 1996, took place in the Notre-Dame Cathedral.

Last but not least, for nearly nine centuries, Notre-Dame has been at the centre of French and world literature. We all remember Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame* (1831) with the cathedral as its centre plot. Hugo's multiple references to the architecture of the Cathedral are breathtaking and stupefying.

Strangely, it is as if Hugo was present at the fire, when he described flames in the cathedral (when Quasimodo uses fire and stones to attack Truands in order to save Esmerelda): "All eyes were raised to the top of the church. They beheld there an extraordinary sight. On the crest of the highest gallery, higher than the central rose window, there was a great flame rising between the two towers with whirlwinds of sparks, a vast, disordered, and furious flame, a tongue of which was borne into the smoke by the wind, from time to time."

Even for those of us who are not religious and yet believe in the cathedral as a spiritual home and a monument in glory of the human creativity, the horrific fire destroying this Gothic edifice has been a moment of tragedy and despair. Time might have been the devourer of Notre-Dame as Hugo wrote in his novel, but humanity has long been the enemy of its own heritage.

Spirit of freedom

As a matter of fact, what was important for Hugo, as for many other writers and intellectuals of his time, was the spirit of freedom represented by Notre-Dame.

As he put it clearly, "There exists in this era, for thoughts written in stone, a privilege absolutely comparable to our current freedom of the press. It is the freedom of architecture." Hugo is right. To feel the spirit of Notre-Dame, as that of Paris, one needs the freedom of a flâneur.

One needs to allow one's gaze to be further absorbed by the play of light upon a meaningful stone that remained alive after a catastrophe.

Without the stones of Notre-Dame, these aesthetic compasses, we would never be able to take our responsibilities in the world. If we want to be at home in this century, even at a price of living in a topsy-turvy world, we must try to take part in a dialogue with our fragile past. We need to educate our senses and to look differently at our historical memory and the cultural heritage which embodies it.

For centuries, humanity has witnessed the destruction of its historical memory, and each time a new door to our common fate is closed forever. We all believe that this should not happen anymore. But it does happen, and we cannot reconcile ourselves with it. None of us can.

However, within this horizon of despair, which manifests itself in the fragility of human history, there is a moral horizon that expresses a love of humanity in spite of its brokenness. Heritage, therefore, expresses a joy of witnessing the past despite the sadness of historical destruction. It is this joy of witnessing the past that becomes an awareness of our landscape of memory. This awareness is the strongest evidence of the victory of peaceful coexistence between the past and the present. Those who fail to see it, forget to make a prayer that one day the organ pipes of Notre-Dame of Paris will once again reverberate through the sanctuary.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director, Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Peace, Jindal Global University, Sonipat

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on computer programmes on the birth anniversary of Ada Lovelace, the first computer programmer

Vighnesh. P. Venkitesh

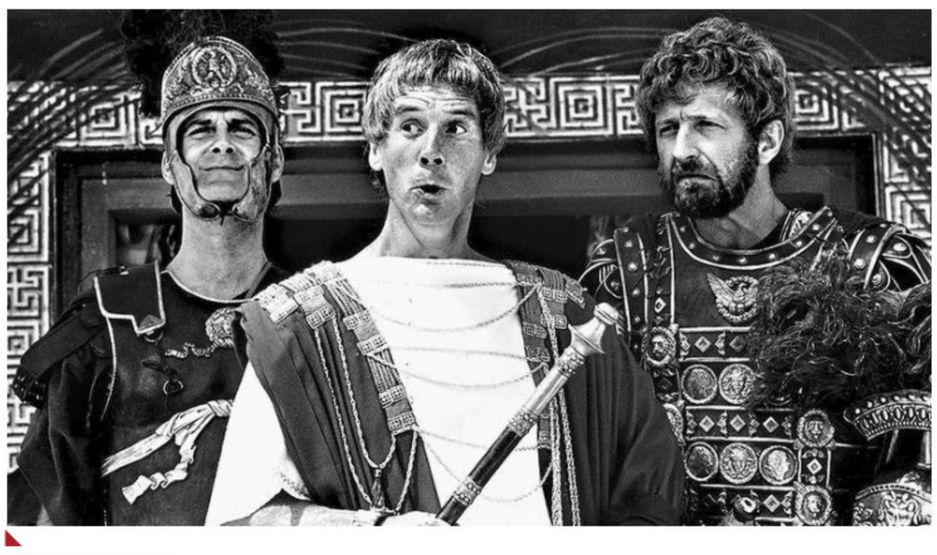
QUESTION 1
What is Lovelace's algorithm commonly called?

QUESTION 2
What is Lovelace's algorithm used to calculate?

QUESTION 3
Which unfinished device was Lovelace's algorithm written for?

QUESTION 4
While Lovelace wrote the first computer program, who is the first person to programme an electric computer?

QUESTION 5
What is the first computer virus?



Visual question:
How is this comedy troupe related to computer programmes? GETTY IMAGES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This military leader of Iran's elite Quds Force played a major role in training fighters in support of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. **Ans: Qassem Solaimani**
2. The name the Syrian Kurds call the de facto autonomous region in northeastern Syria. **Ans: Rojava**
3. Name the rebel force that was trained by the U.S. and is composed of Syrian Arab Army defectors. **Ans: Syrian Free Army or Revolutionary Commando Army**
4. The ethnoreligious group Bashar al-Assad is affiliated to and the stream of Islam it is an offshoot of. **Ans: The Alawites: Shias**
5. This intellectual is considered a major influence in the development of the Ba'athist movement. **Ans: Michel Aflaq**
Visual: Name this individual. **Ans: Abu Muhammad al-Jolani**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Basavaraj Meti| Tito Shiladitya| Bharath Viswanathan| Jose Joji

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

'Why do the Australians call the English 'limeys'?"

"Because the English drank a lot of lime juice."

"Lime Juice! Oh stop joking. I want a serious answer."

"I am giving you a serious answer. You see, during the late 18th century, the British navy made its sailors drink a lot of lime juice."

"But why?"

"As protection against scurvy."

"What's that?"

"It's a disease which is due to lack of vitamin C. You see during the early days of sea travel, sailors didn't get a balanced diet. Since it wasn't possible to store things like fruit and vegetables on ships, many sailors had vitamin C deficiency."

"So in order to increase the vitamin C intake, the British navy asked its sailors to drink lime juice. Is that it?"

"That's right. And since all English sailors drank the stuff, the Australians contemptuously referred to them as "lime-juicers". Later, it was reduced to 'limey'."

"So the word 'limey' originally referred to an English sailor?"

"Yes, but later on it began to be applied to all Englishmen."

"I see. So the people of a country are called something because of something that they drank?"

"Happens all the time. Just look around you. People are often called something because of what they eat or drink. The Germans, for example, are contemptuously called 'Krauts'. The 'au' in the word is pronounced like the 'ou' in words like 'out' and 'bout'."

"Kraut! I think I've got that. But what does it mean?"

"It's a German word meaning 'cabbage'."

"A German is referred to as a 'cabbage'! But why?"

"Because they eat a lot of 'sauer kraut', that is 'sour cabbage'. The Germans love their sour cabbage. And as for the French..."

". . . ah, yes! The French. They are supposed to love good food. I'm sure they're called something that . . . that tastes delicious."

"Do you think 'frogs' taste delicious?"

"The French are called frogs! That must make them hopping mad. But why, frogs?"

"Because the french have a great reputation for eating frogs. Similarly, the Latin American has a reputation for eating beans, so he's often called a 'bean eater' or 'beaner'. The Italian is called a 'macaroni', the Dutch 'butter box'.."

". . . Stop! Stop!"

"You don't like any of these culinary insults?"

"I don't. Can we change the topic?"

"Certainly. But don't you want to know what Indian women are sometimes called in America?"

"Is it another culinary insult?"

"No, it isn't."

"Then tell me."

"The Indian woman is sometimes referred to as a 'dot head'."

"Dothead! Why? Because some of our women wear a bindhi?"

"Exactly."

Published in The Hindu on May 10, 1994.

Word of the day

Fulgent:

shining intensely

Synonyms: blazing, blinding, dazzling, glaring

Usage: *The fulgent starlight cast hard shadows on the landscape.*

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfʌlʤənt/, /ˈfʊlʤənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

सत्यमेव जयते
Government of Rajasthan

SHRI BHAJAN LAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

SHRI NARENDRA MODI
Hon'ble Prime Minister

RISING RAJASTHAN
PRAVASI RAJASTHANI
CONCLAVE

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF BEING A RAJASTHANI

Rising Rajasthan Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave celebrates the pride of being a Rajasthani and the legacy that unites us all.

The conclave will comprise host of activities: insightful sessions, a vibrant showcase of Rajasthan, and opportunity to network with beloved Rajasthanis.

Today @ Rising Rajasthan
Global Investment Summit

Pravasi Rajasthani Conclave | 7 Thematic Sessions | 4 Country Sessions

ALL DAYS
Rajasthan Global Business Expo

TOMORROW
Rising Rajasthan MSME Conclave

RISING RAJASTHAN
PRAVASI RAJASTHANI CONCLAVE
10 Dec 2024
Jaipur Exhibition & Convention Centre

Guests of Honour

SHRI HARIBHAU KISANRAO BAGDE
Hon'ble Governor, Rajasthan

SHRI BHAJAN LAL SHARMA
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Rajasthan

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV
Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India

SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR
Hon'ble Governor, Sikkim

rising.rajasthan.gov.in

Department of Industries & Commerce, Government of Rajasthan

Summit Industry Partner
Confederation of Indian Industry

Bureau of Investment Promotion Rajasthan

Nodal Offices
RIICO GROW WITH RAJASTHAN
Rajasthan Foundation

Rajasthan Samwad

A BG-BGE

SNIPPETS

Owing to sahitya sammelana, session curtailed by a day

The Winter Session, which was scheduled to be held till December 20, has been curtailed by a day owing to the Kannada sahitya sammelana in Mandya. After the business advisory committee meeting at Belagavi on Monday, Speaker U.T. Khader announced that owing to the sammelana scheduled to be held between December 20 and 24, it had been decided to end the session on December 19.

Meanwhile, in the light of suggestions from members to replace the portrait of Basaveshwara that adorns the wall in the Legislative Assembly hall at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, Mr. Khader announced that the request would be considered. Some members suggested that the portrait could be replaced since it did not capture Basaveshwara in the right way.

Three newly-elected MLAs of the Congress take oath

Three MLAs from the Congress, who were elected in the recent bypoll to the Assembly, took oath as members of the House on Monday in Belagavi. E. Annapurna (Sandur), Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan (Shiggaon), and C.P. Yogeshwar (Channapatna) took the oath.

Mr. Yogeshwar surprised everyone by walking to the Opposition bench and greeting the leaders seated in the front row, including those from the JD(S), soon after taking oath. Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar put his arms around Mr. Yogeshwar to congratulate him.

Tributes paid to Ratan Tata, K.H. Srinivasa, and others

The Legislative Assembly paid tributes to seven personalities who passed away recently, including industrialist Ratan Tata. Homage was paid to Sufi saint Syed Shah Khusro Hussaini, former Ministers K.H. Srinivasa, Manohar Tahasildar, and former MLAs Basavaraju A.S., Laxminarayana K. and Venkatareddy Mudnal.

Suvarna Vidhana Soudha gets new chair for Speaker

The Legislative Assembly hall at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha got a new chair for the Speaker that resembles the one in the Assembly hall at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru.

Explaining the features of the chair, Speaker U.T. Khader pointed out that it has an inscription of the mythical two-headed bird (Gandabherunda), a symbol of the sun and the moon, pictures of lions and mangoes on either side of the chair.

Suraj attends Council session

Suraj Revanna of the JD(S), who is out on conditional bail in an alleged case of sexual harassment, came to the Legislative Council and attended the pre-lunch session on Monday.

After close to a month-long imprisonment at the Bengaluru Central Prison, the Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs granted conditional bail to him this July.

Noisy start to Winter Session as waqf row triggers heated exchange of words

While Krishna Byre Gowda claims the BJP is not interested in any meaningful debate on the waqf issue, and only wants to politicise it, R. Ashok demanded a debate on the issue be initiated immediately; issue devours post-lunch session in Council, forcing Deputy Chairman to adjourn the House

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Winter Session of the State legislature got off to a noisy start here on Monday, with the waqf row triggering heated exchanges between the ruling and Opposition members in both the Houses.

As Speaker U.T. Khader began briefing the House about unveiling of a painting of Anubhava Mantapa, conceptualised by the 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara, at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, Leader of the Opposition, R. Ashok, remarked that while the government was claiming to follow the ideology of Basaveshwara, in reality the temples built in his name were being "taken away by the waqf board".

Reminding the Speaker about the notice by the party seeking permission to take up a debate on the waqf row under a censuring clause, he demanded that the debate be initiated immediately.

The Speaker made it clear that as per norms, it could be taken up only after the Question Hour that was still pending.

Meanwhile, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda intervened and alleged that several of the notices issued by the waqf board, to reclaim its land encroached upon by various people and institutions, were actually issued by the erstwhile BJP regime. "You are being heroic now. But where were you when your own government issued such notices?" the Minister taunted the BJP MLAs.

Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, too, attacked the saffron party by alleging that the BJP and RSS were opposed to the ideology of Basaveshwara and that the latter did not even put up Basaveshwara's photos in its offices. Mr. Krishna Byre Gowda maintained that the BJP was actually not interested in any meaningful debate on the waqf issue, and instead only wanted to politicise it.

At daggers drawn: BJP members protesting on the first day of the Legislative Assembly session in Belagavi on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Speaker clarified that the issue would be discussed at the Business Advisory Committee of the House.

In the Council, the waqf row devoured the post-lunch session, ultimately forcing Deputy Chairman Pranesh to adjourn the House for the day.

After Chairman Basavaraj Horatti allowed discussion on the waqf row under Rule 68, Leader of Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy spoke at length demanding repeal of the gazette notification on waqf properties issued in 1974.

Mr. Narayanaswamy was frequently interrupted by the ruling party members, including Minister Priyank Kharge for what they charged as misinformation. Mr. Narayanaswamy continued to argue that the root cause was the notification, and in order to resolve the issue completely, the gazette notification should be rescinded.

Taking exception to Mr. Narayanaswamy's claim that the waqf board had supreme power to declare any property as its own, Mr. Priyank Kharge also carified that entry in column 11 was only a claim to the land and did not mean ownership.

Mr. Narayanaswamy said he would urge the Chief Minister to also write to the Joint Parliamentary Committee set up by the Centre to look into the waqf amendment Bill and withdrawing the "supreme power" awarded to the waqf board. Eventually, amid the debate and frequent interruptions, Mr. Pranesh adjourned the House in the evening.

Why are you targeting one community? asks Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Taking a dig at the BJP, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre said that there have been attempts to attack one community.

During a discussion on the Anubhava Mantapa, a painting of which was unveiled at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Monday, the Minister said: "One community is being attacked and attempts being made to alienate it from the mainstream. Every community has equal rights."

Also questioning the BJP's silence on "insults hurled at Basaveshwara", the Forest Minister asked: "What will you do to address the insult to Basaveshwara? Your silence shows that you approve of the statement."

His remarks were referring to an apparent statement by Vijayapura legislator Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal on Basaveshwara's death, which had earlier kicked up a row.

The BJP members accused Mr. Khandre of creating a diversion from the discussion on the Anubhava Mantapa. The Minister, however, defended himself saying that he had not named anyone in the discussion.

Siddaramaiah launches counter-attack at BJP on Panchamasali reservation

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday launched a counter-attack at the Opposition BJP on the Panchamasali Lingayat community's demand for increasing its reservation quantum, by alleging that the erstwhile BJP government had given an undertaking to the Supreme Court that it would maintain status quo on the reservation matrix.

This, he said, is contrary to the saffron party's claims that it had set in motion a process to increase reservation for the Panchamasali sect.

Replying to the BJP's Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, who demanded an increase in reservation for the Panchamasali community ahead of its protest in Belagavi on Tuesday in this regard, the Chief Minister declared that he would produce a copy of the Supreme Court's directive that followed the then BJP government's undertaking.

The Chief Minister said the erstwhile BJP government had removed the 4% reservation given to Muslims and redistributed a part of it to the Panchamasali community. But later, the government had filed an affidavit before the Supreme Court saying that it would maintain status quo on reservation matrix, he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah replying to the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BJP member Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal making a point in the Legislative Assembly. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Claiming that he had repeatedly told Panchamasali community members that he would not stand between them and their demand for increase in reservation, the Chief Minister said he had told them that they need to approach the Karnataka Permanent Backward Classes Commission to seek an increase in reservation.

Earlier, the BJP members, led by Mr. Yatnal, staged a dharna in the Well of the House to protest against the Belagavi district administration's order banning the entry of tractors and other heavy vehicles into the border town in connection with the protest being planned by the Panchamasali community on Tuesday seeking an increase in reservation.

While the House had been adjourned for lunch amidst the protest, the members resumed the dharna when the House met again.

At that time, Home Minister G. Parameshwara explained that the permission for entry of vehicles had been banned as the police had information that the protesters were planning to bring 5,000 tractors.

The police need to ban such things in the wake of maintaining law and order as the legislature session is going on, he pointed out.

He assured the Panchamashali community of providing restricted permission if they do not bring these many vehicles. Following this, the protesting members withdrew the dharna.

20% of BPL cards found to be ineligible, says Muniyappa

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The process of converting Below Poverty Line (BPL) cards of families with more income into Above Poverty Line (APL) cards will soon resume, and the plan is to complete it in three months.

About 20% BPL cards are found to be ineligible in Karnataka as per norms, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs K.H. Muniyappa said.

Card conversion

Replying during Question Hour in the Legislative Council on Monday, the Minister admitted that there was some confusion on the issue.

In some time, the process of converting BPL cards into APL cards would be completed, he said.

Replying to queries raised by Ivan D'Souza of the Congress, T.N. Javarayi Gowda and T.A. Sharavana of the JD(S), and C.T. Ravi and Hanumanth Nirani of the BJP, Mr. Muniyappa said that of the total BPL cards in Karnataka, 20% were found to be eligible for conversion into APL cards.

All records on land grants in taluk offices to be digitised from Jan. 1

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The Karnataka government is set to scan all documents pertaining to land grants stored in taluk offices across the State from January 1 and that could help beneficiaries of bagair hukum land. About 2.23 lakh bagair hukum applications have been rejected in the State.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Assembly on Monday that the decision to scan documents had been made in the light of complaints about the documents being hidden or not being made available to the public. His response came to a question from the BJP's Dheeraj Muniraju.

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda speaking in the Legislative Assembly. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The records to be digitised include those coming under Inam grants.

"It has come to our notice that documents are being selectively given to people. Many beneficiaries of bagair hukum land grants have failed to get documents. The move to scan documents may help some people as documents may not be hidden or tampered with," he added.

Meanwhile, commenting on reasons for the rejection of applications, the Minister said: "Of the total 2.23 lakh applications rejected, 27,400 were rejected as it pertained to public land, such as roads, cemeteries and lakes, among others. As many as 33,000 applications were for land in town limits and 12,282 applications were for forest land."

He said that though the minimum age to apply is 18, 7,000 applicants were below that.

"As many as 3,273 applications were rejected because the applicants were not farmers. Thousands of applications were rejected because there had been no cultivation of land or the applicants were not from the taluk. As many as 1.29 lakh applications were rejected for other reasons."

With a demand for utilising gomala land for bagair hukum coming in, Mr. Gowda also pointed out three orders of the Supreme Court that have explicitly barred diversion of gomala land for other purposes.

To another question by the Congress' T.B. Jayachandra on farmers not getting khata despite the bagair hukum committee identifying eligible beneficiaries, the Minister said that 10,651 cases have been identified where farmers have not received it. "The numbers could be much more."

The Minister also listed out 20 reasons why the beneficiaries have been unable to get their khata.

'Union govt. asked to raise MSP for toor dal'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy told the Legislative Council on Monday that the State government had requested the Commission for Agricultural Crops and Prices (CACP) of the Union government to increase the minimum support price (MSP) for toor dal, which has received the GI tag, by 20% to 25%.

Replying to the call attention motion moved by Thippannappa Kamakanur on losses incurred by farmers of Kalaburagi district because of the lower MSP, the Minister clarified that the MSP was fixed by the CACP and the State government recommends increasing the MSP every year.

Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy said that during 2024-25 too, the State government recommended a MSP of ₹11,210 per quintal but the CACP had fixed ₹7,550.

The State government had again requested for higher MSP for toor dal, he added.

Glimpses into the twin-city that Bengaluru was

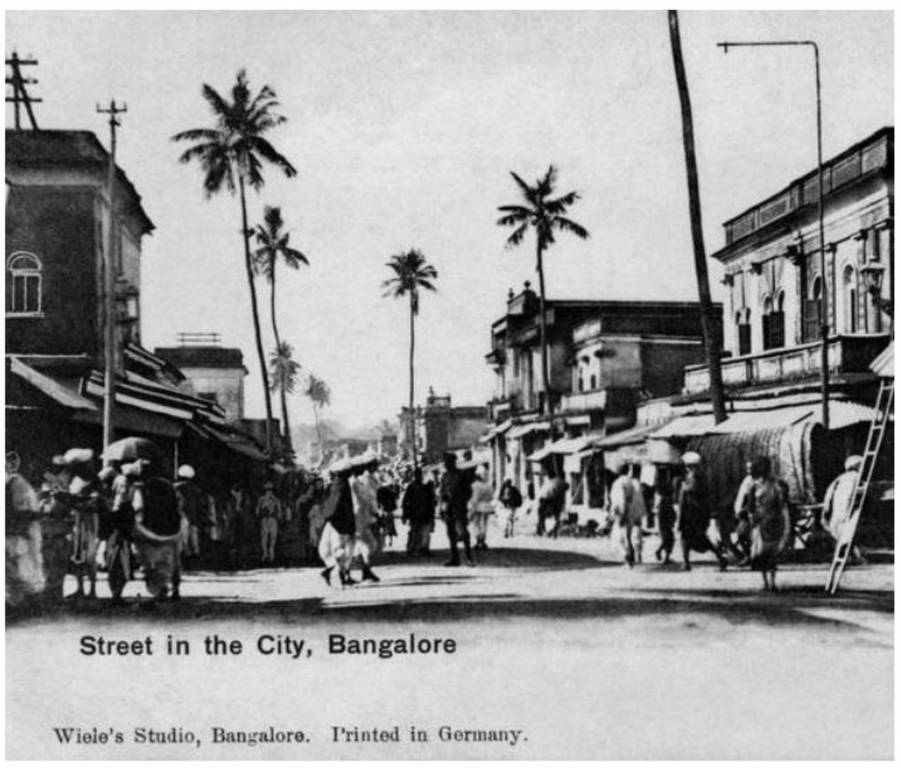
From Bangalore, with Love portrays various aspects of the city's Cantonment and pete areas through postcards dating from 1890-1910. It is a part of Blr Hubba, a citywide arts and cultural festival

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

Bengaluru was once two very different worlds, co-existing somewhat uneasily with each other, going by the 50-odd postcards on the walls at the city's National Gallery of Modern Art.

Some depict the Cantonment section of Bengaluru: British women wearing late-Victorian fashion, bell-shaped skirts, leg-of-mutton sleeved blouses and heavily trimmed hats, strolling through today's familiar weekend hotspots like Cubbon Park and South Parade (now M.G. Road), carrying parasols to ward off the tropical sun, a horse-drawn carriage trundling down Commercial Street and the lush lawns of the Bowring Institute with the stately main building looming behind it. And others offer insights into the city's vibrant pete area, home to lounging saree-clad young beauties, marketplace bustle and temple processions.

These postcards are part of *From Bangalore, with Love*, an ongoing exhibition portraying various aspects of the twin-city that Bengaluru once was through these postcards dating from 1890-1910. Co-curated by Clare Arni, Archana Hande and Suresh Jayaram, *From Bangalore, with Love* offers glimpses of what the city once was, unequally divided into the native pete and the colonial cantonment, with distinctive identities, as the curatorial note puts it. These postcards, according to Jayaram, offer insights into "how different these two were and how they were separate cities at first and together only later."



The curatorial note elaborates on the act of sharing postcards, whose social importance peaked in the early 20th century. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru's ideal weather and geographical location made it a perfect destination for colonial expansion and leisure

Perfect destination

"Bangalore's ideal weather and geographical location made it a perfect destination for colonial expansion and leisure; the building of colonial bungalows, gardens, and public places have made Bangalore part of the nostalgia of the city that is seen and relished through these postcards," states the note, adding that the postcards represented the landmarks and tourist attractions of Bangalore of that time.

"They focus on the establishment of Colonial rule after Tipu Sultan's death in the Anglo-Mysore war (in the fourth and final Anglo-Mysore War in 1799) and the establishment of the Cantonment in 1809, the colonial impact of the British on the Bangalore city's urban development, civic and military infrastructure, including health and sanitation, as well as religious and social life."

From Bangalore, with Love is part of the Blr Hubba, an annual citywide arts and cultural festival anchored by the UnboxingBLR Foundation that seeks to celebrate, "Bengaluru's diverse cultural treasures in performing and visual arts, literature, theatre, science, music, technology, design, and more," as the website puts. "The idea was to curate something with NGMA for the Bangalore Habba, and we also realised that there were certain private collections in Bangalore that were not public," says Jayaram, an artist, art historian and the founder of the 1Shanthiroad Studio/Gallery in the city.

One of them, he says, was the postcard collection of Martin Henry, the director of the textile company Madura Coats and Arni's father, who lived in India from 1969 to 1980. "That collection has now come to Clare Arni," he says, adding that the exhibition stemmed from a need to make this private collection public, to showcase the accelerated changes that have taken place in Bangalore and also about looking at postcards as a record of place at a particular time in history.

Private collection

Arni says that her father started his Indian postcard collection after he returned to England and collected them over the next 20 years. "He bought them from vintage fairs that happened several times a year in England," she says, pointing out that this particular selection of postcards is taken from a large collection of about 3000 cards dating from 1890 to 1910. "There are no modern cards in his collection," says the Bengaluru-based photographer. Suresh Jayaram had known about her collection for quite a few years as he has used some of these postcards in his Lalbagh book and his upcoming book on Cubbon Park. "So he and Archana Hande went through my large collection, and we jointly curated this exhibition of 50 postcards from the roughly 250 (from this period) I have," she says.

Jayaram traces the events that led up to the creation of this cantonment area. "Post Tipu Sultan's death in 1799, the British were trying to settle down in Srirangapatna, but because of certain reasons, one was mosquitoes, they wanted to have a place where the garrison can be placed in Bangalore," he says. "That was the Ulsoor area."

'New media' of the time

Over time, more people began settling in the city, and even "women started coming here to look for their future husbands, so it was becoming a cosmopolitan space at that particular time," he says. The postcards, priced very cheap back then, say an anna or so, were what people sent back home to "tell them that there are gardens, there's Lal Bagh, there's Cubbon Park, there are beautiful churches, etc.," says Jayaram.

He thinks of these postcards as the "new media" of those times, today an object for anthropological, social and post-colonial studies.

"The postcard is a very small object, but it has played an important role in understanding the historical context of the nation," says Jayaram.

The curatorial note elaborates on the act of sharing postcards, whose social importance peaked in the early 20th century. "The framing of the photos, printing and circulation saw how the British looked at the lands they conquered and settled," it states. "Memories were made by documenting the lived reality through colonial and native heritage buildings and portraits of natives through the curious anthropological lens."

Nostalgia and the city

In Bengaluru, a city that has grown far beyond the pete and cantonment areas, nostalgia for the smaller, slower, greener city of yore, an imaginary homeland of sorts for the city's long-term residents, often crops up in contemporary discourse. And postcards, which reflect the "social customs, cities, architecture, and picturesque scenes of India, reflecting nostalgia for the bygone era...part of the image building of India/Bangalore and its people," appear to have become more relevant than ever before, going by the response to the exhibition.

"The exhibition has had a very good response both from the general public who see an unrecognisable city in these postcards but also from Bangalore historians who can chart the changing city through these images," agrees Arni.

From Bangalore, with Love will be on view till December 15, 2024

Space-tech start-up raises $24 million

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Space technology company Pixxel on Monday announced the raising of $24 million in additional funding as part of its Series B round.

This new investment brings the total Series B funding to $60 Million. With this, Pixxel has raised a total of $95 Million across all funding rounds to date, the company said.

Pixxel is building the world's highest-resolution hyperspectral satellite constellation. Its hyperspectral satellites are designed to capture data across 250+ spectral bands at an unparalleled 5-metre spatial resolution, spectrally fingerprinting the earth and delivering details invisible to conventional imaging methods.

The Series B extension round added new investors, M&G Catalyst and Glade Brook Capital Partners, who have joined existing backers Google, Radical Ventures, Lightspeed, and others.

"This funding positions Pixxel as one of the highest-funded space-tech startups in India and the highest-funded hyperspectral imaging company globally," the company said.

Drushya's new Kannada play is a satirical take on the bureaucracy and corruption

It portrays the struggles or challenges Shah Jahan would have faced in building the Taj Mahal in today's world

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

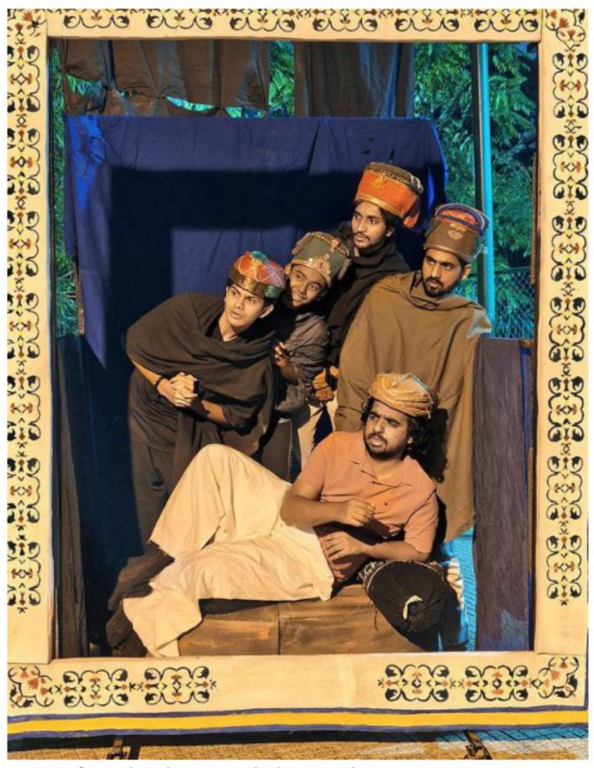
Drushya, a 19-year-old Kannada theatre troupe that is known for its plays like *Abhiyaana, Rakta Dwaja, Haanush, Twelfth Night* and many more, is getting back on stage with the first show of its latest production, *Taj Mahalina Tender*.

The play will premiere on Tuesday at 7 p.m., in Kalagrama, Mallatahalli.

Originally written by Ajay Shukla in Hindi, titled *Taj Mahal Ka Tender*, the play was translated to Kannada by Dakshayani Somashekar and designed and directed by Drushya's founder, Dakshayani Bhat.

Riddled with red tape

According to the synopsis of the play, *Taj Mahalina Tender* is a satirical play that humorously critiques bureaucracy and corruption in the government system. "The play reimagines the construction of the Taj Mahal, a globally celebrated symbol of love as if it were being built in contemporary times under a tendering process riddled with red tape, inefficiency, and greed."



A scene from the play *Taj Mahalina Tender*.

Through sharp wit and clever dialogue, the play exposes the flaws of modern-day administrative practices, corruption and red tape. The play uses the backdrop of the historical project to comment on systemic issues in governance, juxtaposing the grandeur of Shah Jahan's vision with the absurdity of present-day inefficiencies. The satire serves as a powerful reminder of the gap between lofty ideals and ground realities, making it both thought-provoking and entertaining for audiences, explains the synopsis.

Asked why she chose to direct this play, Dakshyani said that she wanted to throw light on corruption which has become a part of our everyday life.

"The script shows a regular person or citizen of today through the eye of Shah Jahan. It portrays the struggles or challenges Shah Jahan would have faced in building the Taj Mahal in today's world, if tender had to be, which fascinated me. The play has been done by many troupes, and the storyline has appeared in films too, but I wanted to go beyond the comedy of the play, and make audience understand the irony of the play," she added.

"Our team is filled with many young actors both amateur and professional. Through this play I wanted them to learn and understand the world they are living in, and the corruption around them. I wanted a play that would bring a change within us, which is why I decided to direct this play for our team," Dakshayani explained.

Dakshayani said she mostly directs stylised plays and does realistic plays occasionally. "However, this play both stylised and realistic. Initially it was hard for the younger actors to understand this play, and over a couple of days of rehersals they understood it better.

During our rehearsal process a young actor went through something in which corruption was involved, and it was a live experience and learning for the entire team.

They will understand the play through further shows and as they get older," she said.

Performed for one hour and forty minutes, the *Taj Mahalina Tender*, is open to an audience over the age of five. Tickets for the show are available at Kalagrama and on BookMyShow.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 10, 1974

More Funds Sought for Civic Bodies

Mangalore, Dec. 7. Though the general tax collections from South Kanara worked out to nearly Rs.15 crores comprising sales tax Rs. 3.5 crores, excise duty 6.5 crores, motor vehicles tax Rs. 1.5 crores, and other collections about Rs. 2.5 crores, etc, the State Government extended very little for development effort in the district. This was the general feeling expressed before the State Municipal Resources Enquiry Committee, which held its session in the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Thursday. The Committee met the councillors of Mangalore, Udipi, Puttur, Karkal, Coondapur and Mulki.

Drought Schemes: Need to Train Staff

Bangalore, Dec. 10: Prof. Ramaswamy, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, has suggested proper training of personnel who are put in charge of implementing the programmes in the drought prone areas.

Speaking at a training course of rural development programme here on Wednesday, he deplored that the Government had been entrusting such work to Government agencies, which did not have the necessary organisation and system for effectively implementing such economic and social programmes. He called for a thorough reorganisation of the decision-making process, information systems and manning policy in the Government, particularly in regard to those entrusted with such work.

CITYBEATS

Going nuts

ONGOING
Kadalekai Parishe is an annual groundnut festival that brings farmers and their first harvest to the city. To honour this, chef Mandaar Sukhtankar and Dinesh Poojary have curated a special menu with peanut-based dishes such as *kadalekai usali*, KBC (khara bun congress), *kadalekai sihi kumblakai* curry and more.
At Oota, Whitefield. Call 8880233322.

Zest for the season

ONGOING
This Christmas season, binge on artisanal coffee and a special holiday menu. Indulge your sweet tooth with candy cane, Christmas pudding, drinks with marshmallow, coffee-tini (an espresso concoction with a rich, cold-foamed cocoa) and a drink named Comfort and Joy.
At Maverick & Farmer (Koramangala, Ulsoor, Cunningham Road).

Master strokes

DECEMBER 11 TO 15
Wet Palette Art Group presents its 44th programme titled Saturnalia-5, which is an international group exhibition of water colour paintings. Curated by artist Sunil Linus De, the exhibition will feature 60 works by 24 artists from across the world. On December 14, 4 pm, Sunil will present a water colour demonstration.
At Chitrakala Parishad Art Gallery, entry free.

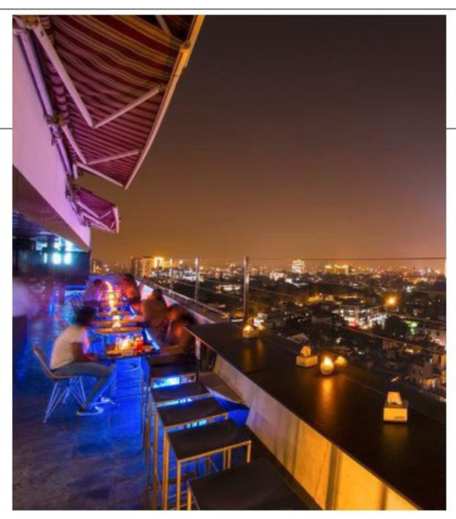
Brew with a view

From the 13th floor to as high as the 31st floor, these establishments are taking things to a new level

Prachi Rathi

Bengaluru's nightlife and restaurant circuit has always been vibrant. Couple that with its famous weather and it makes for special rooftop dining experiences. A stunning view of the city's greenery, or glittering skyline can elevate any establishment. Here are the restaurants in Bengaluru with the best views:

Skyye
Nestled on the 16th floor, Skyye is a beloved destination for Bengalureans. With a bird's eye view of the city, it is a premier spot for nightlife. The vibrant energy here is infectious, making it a popular choice for clubbing. Skkye offers a diverse selection of cuisines, with expertly crafted cocktails and refreshing mocktails.
₹2,200 for two. UB City. For details, call 7760888899



The 13th Floor
A beloved staple for around 18 years, The 13th Floor remains an evergreen spot for Bangaloreans be it date nights or family dinners. A long-extended balcony, open to the sky, gives you a chance to dine under the canopy of stars. The restaurant offers a blend of Asian and South Asian dishes, complemented by a wide array of cocktails, ensuring a memorable experience.
₹2,500 for two. At MG Road. For details, call 41783355

Kazé
Kazé, meaning wind in Japanese, perfectly encapsulates the breezy ambience of this pan-Asian restaurant perched on the 20th floor. Guests are treated to stunning views of iconic landmarks such as Kanteerava Stadium and UB City. Boasting a Japanese menu, its prawn dim sums, vegetarian sushi platter and sashimi are amongst crowd's favourites. The bar menu is elaborate, featuring cocktails and classics. On weekends, the open-air setting transforms into a lively party scene, inviting guests to revel under the stars.
₹3,500 for two. At Ashok Nagar. Call 9008472111

One 8 Commune
Located on the sixth floor, Virat Kohli's One 8 Commune boasts an unbeatable setting, offering stunning views of Chinnaswamy Stadium and Cubbon Park. Spanning three levels, including a rooftop, guests can enjoy the refreshing breeze while watching the city transform as night falls. One can relish diverse food options here, as they serve a variety of cuisines alongside cocktails. The atmosphere, especially on weekends, is enhanced by a DJ spinning energetic tunes, making it a perfect spot for a lively night out.
₹3,000 for two. At Lavelle Road. For details, call 8548881818

Botany Brew and Kitchen
Dine in with Cubbon Park as your backdrop at this newest addition to Bengaluru's high-rise dining scene. Located on the 18th floor, you take in serene nature, the pink and orange hues of the setting sun and iconic buildings such as Vidhan Soudha and Government Museum. Botany has a multi-cuisine menu that caters to diverse palates, and soon plans to launch brewed beers.
₹2,700 for two. At Kasturba Road. For details, call 916361148584

Sozo Skyline
High up on the 17th floor, Sozo Skyline is airy, expansive and an ideal fine dining resto bar. One can indulge in unobstructed views of the city and spot Cubbon Park, the High Court lawns and Chinnaswamy Stadium. Known for its signature cocktails and a menu rich in Asian specialties, Sozo Skyline exudes sophistication.
₹1,800 for two. At Kasturba Road. For details, call 6361148584

High Ultra Lounge
Located on the 31st floor of the World Trade Center, High Ultra Lounge is the highest dining lounge in Bengaluru with panoramic views of the city from their indoor and outdoor spaces. It is also a perfect place for party animals who like to revel under the sky. The menu presents a wide variety of contemporary dishes from different cuisines and expertly crafted cocktails.
₹3,600 for two. At Malleshwaram. For details, call 9686943311

Trudging the last mile

The Hindu Bureau

Kone Galige, a Kannada play on a convict's last few hours before going to the gallows, is set to premiere at the Ranga Shankara in Bengaluru on December 13, 2024. Written and directed by Abhishek Iyengar, the play is presented by WeMove Theatre and Sanskriti Centre for Peforming Arts.

Kone Galige stars seasoned theatre actors Alaknanda Srinivas, Keerthi Bhanu and Vyjayanti Adiga in lead roles. The play revolves around the last few minutes of Hariprasad, who is awaiting his death sentence in an isolated prison. Hariprasad has an unexpected visitor, who draws him into reluctant conversations, exploring his world.

"The idea for the play struck me when Alaknanda Srinivas casually asked me about how a convict going to gallows will spend the last hour! That thought intrigued me," says Abhishek. "I had done a research about convicts and prison for a different project which hadn't worked then and then this thought rekindled that research which lead to the play," he adds.

In his final hours, Hariprasad confronts his past, finds a sense of nothingness, and maybe even a glimmer of peace, but how does this matter in his last moments? The play explores this tricky aspect. *Kone Galige* is a story about the power of human connection, even in the darkest of places, says Abhishek.

In retrospect Alaknanda Srinivas, Keerthi Bhanu and Vyjayanti Adiga during the rehearsals of the play *Kone Galige*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delving further into the play, Abhishek says, "The way I have structured this play is different from my previous projects. This is the first play where it happens at a timeline which is not present." Costumes play a major in the play, he notes.

Kone Galige is a story about the power of human connection, even in the darkest of places

Lavanya Bhat is the assistant director while Guru has done the set design for the play. The experienced Manju Narayan will handle lights while Vignesh will head the production. Lavanya Bhat and Bellichukki Veerendra have headlined the costume department.

A 60-minute play, *Kone Galige* will premiere at the Ranga Shankara on December 13, 7.30pm. Tickets on Bookmyshow and at Ranga Shankara box office

Class act A poster of *A Day in Hollywood/A Night in the Ukraine.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Old Hollywood and Marx Brothers

Praveen Sudevan

Arjun Sajnani is bringing back the charm and chaos of Hollywood's golden age with *A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine*, a celebrated two-act musical that has earned the applause of many audiences since its debut in 1979. With a touch of nostalgia and a hefty dose of Marx Brothers' wit, the production is set to be staged at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on December 11 and 12.

The play's first act is a musical homage to Hollywood films of the 1930s and 1940s, featuring iconic swing jazz tunes and ballads that defined the era. Its second act transitions into an uproarious Marx Brothers-inspired farce, blending slapstick humour, wit, and sarcasm in a way that remains timeless. Arjun says, "This generation has not experienced the fun of this show."

This iteration, however, is not a mere revival but a reinvention. While retaining some of the original cast members from Arjun's earlier production (about 30 years ago) for the Marx Brothers segment, the Hollywood portion has been entirely reimagined. The director credits advancements in technology for breathing new life into the spectacle.

"The music is wonderful and with modern technology, I wanted to bring it to this audience too."

The production, he adds, is also a celebration of young theatre talent in Bengaluru, with a fresh crop of actors, singers, and dancers taking centre stage.

The relatability of retro themes for contemporary audiences is not lost on the director. "Comedy is comedy," Arjun says, "The script is so good – there's nothing archaic, old, or unapproachable about it. You can laugh at it today just as you did 30, 40, or 50 years ago." The play's universal appeal lies not only in its humour but also in its music, which Arjun believes resonates across generations.

> There's nothing archaic or old about it. You can laugh at it today just as you did 30, 40, or 50 years ago.
> **ARJUN SAJNANI**
> Playwright

The staging, costumes, and choreography have been meticulously designed to reflect the glamour of Hollywood's golden age. "The pianist and my music team are incredible. Maya Mascarenhas, my music director, and Lourd Vijay, who handled the choreography, are amazing. The confidence I get from having such talented people handling various departments is something I hope I never have to do without."

For Arjun, the most rewarding aspect of the production lies ahead – audience reactions. "That's my reward," he says. "When the credit time comes, I want it all to go to them (the cast and crew) because they work so hard. It's their voices and concentration that make the production what it is."

Part of the BLR Hubba festival, A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine *will be staged at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, on December 11 and 12. Tickets on BookMyShow.*

INBRIEF

Filmmaker Shaji N. Karun chosen for J.C. Daniel Award

Eminent filmmaker Shaji N. Karun has been selected for the J.C. Daniel Award for 2023, recognising his lifetime contribution to Malayalam cinema, an official release stated on Monday. The award, the highest honour in Malayalam cinema instituted by the Kerala government, includes a cash prize of ₹5 lakh, a citation, and a statuette. Mr. Karun has been able to infuse creative energy into the new wave cinema in Malayalam, a jury chaired by an earlier recipient of the award T.V. Chandran, said. PTI

Karnataka's action against Marathi speakers condemned

Leaders from various political parties in Maharashtra, including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, on Monday denounced the "repressive measures" employed by the Karnataka police against Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) activists who were protesting in Belagavi. The protests coincide with the Winter Session of the Karnataka legislative, which began on Monday, at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, which the MES has been opposing. The group had planned a '*maha melava*' (grand convention) opposing the Winter Session at Belagavi, but the Karnataka government reportedly barred the event and restricted the entry of leaders from Maharashtra into the State.

Girl dies of burns in Nandyal

A college student died of burns at her house in Nandyal district of Andhra Pradesh on Monday. A youth, who was found with critical injuries in the house, was shifted to hospital. Though the family members alleged that the youngster gagged the girl and set her on fire after she rejected him, the police said that they were yet to probe.

T.N. Assembly adopts resolution against tungsten mining

It points out that Arittapatti, where the mining is to be carried out, is a biodiversity heritage site; Chief Minister says government will not permit mining project as long as he holds his post

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a special resolution urging the Union government to cancel the tungsten mining rights granted to Hindustan Zinc Limited in Madurai district. It further requested the Centre not to grant any mining licence without the permission of the States.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin asserted that his government will not permit the project as long as he held his post.

The resolution said it was condemnable that, despite the concerns raised by the Tamil Nadu government in October 2023 over the auctioning of mining rights for such critical and strategic minerals, the Union government proceeded with the auction.

Firm stand: The State government said the biodiversity heritage site included historical monuments such as cave temples, Jain symbols and Tamil Brahmi scripts, and was a habitat for rare species.

The State government had, in 2022, pointed out that the area where the tungsten mining rights had been granted was a biodiversity heritage site, which included many historical monuments such as cave temples, Jain symbols and Tamil Brahmi scripts, and was a habitat for rare species. Disregarding this, the Union government granted the rights to carry out mining in the area, the resolution said. "The people of Tamil Nadu and the government of Tamil Nadu will never accept this," it added.

Since the Union government's decision had created a sense of anxiety among the people living in the area that their livelihood would be affected, they had staged several protests, it said.

Nikhil meets Shah, discusses local body polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) State youth wing president Nikhil Kumaraswamy met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Monday and held discussions on the upcoming local body polls.

Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, he said: "I met the Union Minister at his office in Parliament House and shared details about the Channapatna byelection results with him."

Stating that they also discussed the upcoming zilla and taluk panchayat elections, he said: "Mr. Shah guided me on strengthening the NDA alliance at the grassroots level."

Commenting on the Congress leaders' criticism of the H.D. Deve Gowda family at a rally held recently in Hassan, Mr. Nikhil said: "They used taxpayers' money to hold a rally and criticise our family. I do not think it is necessary to respond or retaliate with another rally."

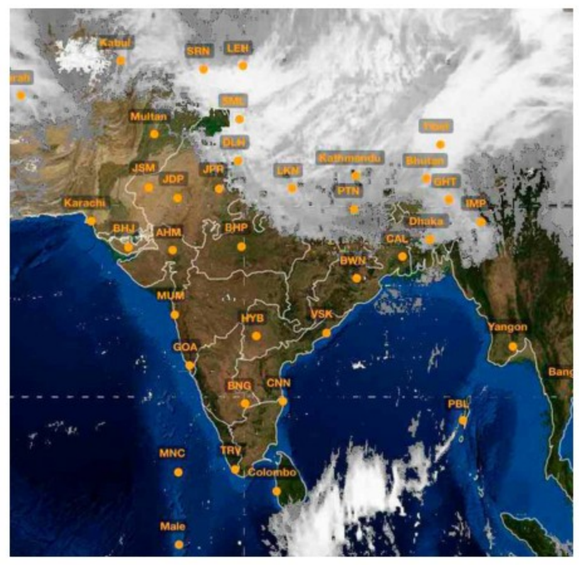
"Our leaders had planned to celebrate H.D. Kumaraswamy's birthday in a grand manner in Mandya. However, owing to the Kannada Sahitya Sammelana, the ongoing Legislative and Parliament sessions, and prior commitments of Union ministers, Mr. Kumaraswamy himself suggested cancelling the celebrations," he said.

Reflecting on the byelection results, Mr. Nikhil said: "I have humbly accepted my defeat. I did not expect such results. There are many reasons for my defeat. In the last 48 hours before the election, the government deposited two months' of Gruha Lakshmi scheme funds into women's accounts. This is a blatant misuse of power, and it must be questioned."

"I am not looking to blame anyone for the loss. Owing to the dynamics between the two alliance parties, I had to contest in the final stages of the election campaign. Mr. Kumaraswamy decided to avoid any controversy affecting the alliance, and as per the leaders' instructions, I contested. While we only had 15 days to campaign, our opponents had ample time," he explained.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Mahe. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura and Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	26.0	12.2	Kozhikode	0.3	34.4	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	27.7	13.9	Kurnool	—	32.8	22.9
Aizawl	—	28.0	12.3	Lucknow	—	24.3	11.0
Allahabad	—	28.2	13.4	Madurai	—	32.6	22.7
Bengaluru	—	28.8	18.9	Mangaluru	—	31.3	24.5
Bhopal	—	26.0	9.2	Mumbai	—	31.8	13.7
Bhubaneswar	—	30.0	20.6	Mysuru	—	31.0	19.0
Chandigarh	0.8	21.6	8.4	New Delhi	0.1	21.6	8.2
Chennai	—	32.0	25.0	Patna	—	24.0	16.1
Coimbatore	—	31.4	21.2	Port Blair	30	29.7	24.6
Dehradun	0.2	21.1	8.5	Puducherry	—	31.4	24.3
Gangtok	—	13.4	6.9	Pune	—	32.9	16.8
Goa	—	33.0	24.0	Raipur	—	30.4	20.0
Guwahati	—	25.0	14.7	Ranchi	0.4	20.0	14.5
Hubballi	—	30.0	21.0	Shillong	—	18.2	4.7
Hyderabad	—	29.4	21.5	Shimla	2.5	10.4	2.0
Imphal	—	22.7	8.6	Srinagar	—	9.9	-3.3
Jaipur	—	22.0	10.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.3	24.6
Kochi	0.5	31.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	31.7	24.0
Kohima	—	22.4	8.5	Vijayawada	—	31.2	22.8
Kolkata	—	27.2	14.8	Visakhapatnam	—	30.2	23.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.18	.30	24	216	136	
Bengaluru	.11	.20	40	58	91	
Chennai	.7	.23	78	123	107	
Delhi	.7	.76	40	311	175	
Hyderabad	.7	.99	55	—	129	
Kolkata	.27	.47	50	230	170	
Lucknow	.16	.4	52	338	230	
Mumbai	.7	.88	26	75	124	
Pune	.—	.18	13	152	103	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.54	28	113	158	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Durgapur, West Bengal recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 340 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Karnataka State
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shimoga Division, Shimoga
No.EE/PWD/Smg/JE-2/IFT-28/2024-25 Dtd:09-12-2024
Short term Tender Notification (2 Cover System)
Tender invited thro' E-Procurement version-2 kppp.karnataka.gov.in for the below Indents by PWD Class-2 above Contractors For needful information please contact Office P.No. 08182-274942 and Helpdesk Ph Nos. 080-25501216/ 080-25501227)
All Contractors 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements: 1. Sagara taluk 1 Works
Tender documents down loading & submission dates :
Date09-12-2024 to 16-12-2024. Period for completion of works :All Works Completion Periods:6 Months
Sd/- EE, PW Dept Division, Shimoga
DIPR/smg/ksmca/24-25/52/12/1194

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL GRBCC Div No 3 Gokak. Ph No:08332-225213
No : 1) KNNL/GRBCC-3/GKK/DB/Tender/4701 M&MI/CLISFIC/2024-25/10 2) KNNL/GRBCC-3/GKK/DB/Tender/4701 M&MI/Markandeya/2024-25/11 Dt: - 09-12-2024.
Short term Tender Notification/ call-2 (Through KPP Portal only)
On behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No-3 Gokak, Belagavi District in Karnataka State invites tenders on Percentage basis on KPP portal for the Head of Account 4701 M & MI Chachadi LIS and Markandeya Project works.
(1) Chachadi LIS Works (02) Amount Put to Tender (Including GST) (Approximately): Rs.184.50 Lakhs, & Rs. 222.33 lakhs. (Indent Nos. 1398/CALL-2, & 1411/CALL-2) (2) Markandeya Project Works (02) Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (Approximately): Rs.406.53 Lakhs & Rs. 419.28 lakhs. (Indent Nos. 1864/CALL-2, & 1866/CALL-2)
Valid eligible KPWD registered contractor can participate in this tender. The intending bidders can submit bids as an individual.
1. The Contractor can have access to the e-tender document, i.e. the Tender schedules, bid documents and other documents in the web site https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment of transaction fee (non-refundable) from : 11-12-2024 to 19-12-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. The Pre-bid meeting will be on 13-12-2024 in the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, GRBCC Division No.3, Gokak at 11.00 am. The queries if any are to be sent by the intending bidders to the Executive Engineer on or before 17-12-2024, 17.00 Hrs. Last date of bid submission 19-12-2024 16.00 Hrs. Technical bid opening on 21-12-2024 11.00 Hrs. Financial bid opening will be done after approval of technical bid. Further information can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL GRBCC Division No-3, Gokak, Belagavi District, State: Karnataka during office hours. Phone No: 08332-225213 & e-mail Id: knnlgrbccd3.gokak@gmail.com. Other conditions are as published in KPP portal only. Further if any Corrigendum / Addendum or any modifications of this tender will be published in the web site of e-procurement only.
Sd/- (H.S. Kakhandaki)
Executive Engineer,
KNNL, GRBCC Div No 3 Gokak.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1016/KSMCA/2024-25

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru-560 038. Ph: **080-25191039**
e-mail: **contactus@bmrc.co.in**, Website: **www.bmrc.co.in**
No.: BMRCL/2024-25/BG/WORK_INDENT47 Date: 10.12.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
BMRCL invites tenders from eligible tenderers for **"Petty Repair works in Reach-2 section Vijayanagar (VJN) station 3/450 chainage to Mysore Road station".** The works details can be obtained from the procurement website. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **21.01.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact this office during office working hours.**
Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. SEE/Tr(M)/RMGC/EE(O)/AE(T)/F-32/24-25/2658-60 Date: 07.12.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)
KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/RMGC/REPAIR OF TFR/EE(O)/AE(T)/24-25/EPR-521 Dtd: 07.12.2024 for **"Dismantling, Transportation (to and fro), Repair, Testing, Erection and commissioning of sick Power Transformer of rating 31.5MVA, 66/11KV(3Limbs), Victory make, Sl. No.4-0012/8 Failed at 220/66/11Kv Yerrandanahalli R/s in TL&SS, Division, Yerrandanahalli on total turnkey basis on Percentage tender basis".**
The Detailed Notification regarding the tenders can be got by logging on or after **10.12.2024** to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link **'E Procurement KPTCL'** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-Superintending Engineer(Ele.), Transmission (Maint.), Ramanagara Circle, Opp. R.R. Nagar Metro Station, Pantharapalya, Mysuru Road, Bengaluru-560 026, Ph: 080-29620155.

Govt of Karnataka
Town Municipal Council, Kampli. Ballari Dist.
Email : ka.kampli.tmc@gmail.com
website : www.kamplitown.mrc.gov.in
No : TMCK/SFC/Special/01/2018-19 Date : 06.12.2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal)
The Chief Officer, Town Municipal Council, Kampli. Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender document for Development PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT KAMPLI MARKET KAMPLI as below
Name of the Works & Indent No: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL COMPLEX AT KAMPLI MARKET KAMPLI - DMA/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT17637. **Estimate Amount:** Rs 170.00 lakhs
Interested Contractors shall register on the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ platform to participate in this tender; Contractors can download the tender documents from the KPPP platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee & EMD shall also be paid electronically.
Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications Date **26.12.2024 at 11.00 Hrs.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders Date **26.12.2024 at 17.00 hrs.** Date & time for opening of (technical bids) Date **30.12.2024 at 11:00 Hrs**
Sd/- Chief Officer, TMC Kampli.
DIPR/Ballari/665/KSMCA/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Bangalore South - Lakes) Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002.
No. EE/BSC-Lakes/TN-10/2024-25 Date: 09.12.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover - Short Term Tender Notification (Only through GoK KPP Portal)
The Executive Engineer, Bangalore South - Lakes, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Chief Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Preparation of Detail Project Report for Comprehensive Development of Subederanakere and Chikkammanahalli Lakes in Bommanahalli Zone.	25,000/-

Period of Completion : **2 months.**
Calendar of Events: **(1)** RFP documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 10.12.2024. (2)** Date & time of Pre-bid Meeting : **12.12.2024 at 3.00 pm. (3)** Last date for submission of bids : **16.12.2024. (4)** Date & time of opening of Technical bid: **17.12.2024 after 4.30 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bangalore South - Lakes

BENGALURU MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009. Ph: 080 22341230 / 35
Email: bmicapa@gmail.com
No. BMICAPA/CLU-01/36/2024-25 Date: 09.12.2024
PUBLICATION
(Under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act, 1961)
Sri C. Bhaskaran S/o Late P.K.Panikkar has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** Zone to **"Residential"** purpose pertaining to (Old No:61) Sy.No: 115 extent of 02 Acre - 20 Guntas, Sy.No: 116 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 117 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 118 extent of 01 Acre - 20 Guntas, Sy.No: 119 extent of 0 Acre - 24 Guntas. Sy.No: 120 extent of 01 Acre - 20 Guntas. Sy.No: 124 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 125 extent of 02 Acre-15Guntas, Sy.No:126 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 127 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 128 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 129 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 130 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 131 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 132 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 133 extent of 02 Acre, Sy.No: 121 extent of 0 Acre - 26 Guntas, Sy.No: 61/P2 extent of 02 Acre totally measuring 32 Acre - 19 Guntas of Chinnakurchi Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid lands are reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;
1. By developing the layout in the above said lands, the poor and middle Class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.
4. By planned layout, the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks etc.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection recieved after stipulated time will not be considered.
Sd/-
Member Secretary
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/AAA/3704/2024-25

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಯನಗರ
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560041.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಾಆಜ/ಪಥ್ಯಾಹಾರ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/03/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.12.2024
ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಯನಗರ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ಈ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಪಥ್ಯಾಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಬ್ರೆಡ್ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ.
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನುಸೂಚಿಗಳು

1	Amount value of Tender (Approx.)	Rs. 42,00,000/-
2	Opening date of uploading tender form through e-portal	11.12.2024 at 4.00 PM
3	Last Date for Submission of e-tender through e-portal	21.12.2024 at 10.00 AM
4	Opening date & time of Technical Bid proposals through e-portal	23.12.2024 at 10.00 AM
5	Opening date & time of Financial Bid proposals through e-portal	26.12.2024 at 11.00 AM
6	E.M.D.	Rs. 84,000/-
7	For more information, please contact	Medical superintendent office General Hospital, Jayanagar, Bengaluru

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ನಿಯಮ ಮತ್ತು ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಗತ್ತಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. E-Tender upload through this website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
ಸಹಿ/-
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಅಧೀಕ್ಷಕರು
ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜಯನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು
ವಾಸಸಂಇ/ಸಿಪಿ/ಎಎಎ/3703/2024-25

INNOVATE KARNATAKA K-tech
CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Call for Proposals to establish Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in Karnataka excluding Bengaluru Urban District
LAST DATE FOR APPLY : 31.12.2024
Change of Address:
KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
 # 59, 3rd Floor, BKG Sapphire, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru – 560020
Mob : 9880682933 E-mail: kitsgok@karnataka.gov.in
Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka (GoK) invites proposals to establish Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in Karnataka excluding Bengaluru Urban District. The scheme aims to create an ecosystem that aids innovation and entrepreneurship by assisting technology startups/individuals in moving from ideation to the Proof of Concept (PoC) stage and allow for the creation of scalable technological solutions.
- Project proposal format can be downloaded from the website: **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/139/establish-technology-business-incubators-(tbis)-in-karnataka-excluding-bengaluru-urban-district/en**
- Interested Institutions/Organisations are requested to submit their proposal in a signed PDF format to the email address: **gm2.ktech@ka.gov.in** and two hard/physical copies must be mandatorily sent to the following address before 31.12.2024 superscribing the cover with **"Proposal Submission-TBI"** addressing to The Managing Director, **KITS**.

Sd/-
Managing Director
DIPR/CP/3699/2024-25

Places and worship

Supreme Court hearing may decide future of secularism in India

A special Bench of the Supreme Court of India, headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, will begin hearing on December 12 a batch of petitions that question the validity of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, a law that freezes the status of places of worship in the country as on the day of its independence and bars suits that seek to alter such status. It is no exaggeration to say these petitions pose a virulent challenge to the survival of secularism. The outcome may well decide the trajectory of communal relations and the future of secular thought in the country. The 1991 Act does have some exemptions: it did not apply to what was then the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute, which ended in favour of the Ram temple. Nor does it apply to monuments, sites and remains covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. It will also not apply to any suit that has been finally settled or disposed of, any dispute that has been settled by the parties before the 1991 Act came into force, or to the conversion of any place that took place by acquiescence. The challenge has come in the backdrop of a renewed attempt through motivated litigation by some Hindu organisations and devotees to target mosques such as the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi, the Shahi Idgah mosque in Mathura and the Shahi Jama Masjid in Sambhal, among others. Any order that strikes down or dilutes the 1991 law is likely to have a malign influence on these proceedings.

The petitions highlight the demolition of temples by invaders in the past and contend that many mosques have been built on their ruins. The Places of Worship Act, they claim, legalises such depredations, and also violates the right of Hindus and other communities to reclaim their places of worship through legal proceedings. It also violates the right to practise and propagate religion and manage and administer places of worship. Ironically, they also contend that the Act goes against the principle of secularism, which would surely stand to be undermined if their attempts to reclaim these sites succeed. Fortunately, there are some clearly established principles in favour of the Act. In its Ayodhya judgment, a five-member Bench observed that the law "imposes a non-derogable obligation towards enforcing our commitment to secularism". It also called it a "legislative intervention that preserves non-retrogression as an essential feature of our secular values". For the present, it does not seem likely that the Court will depart from the Constitution's secular vision and Parliament's mandate against misusing judicial fora to remedy historical wrongs.

Paradigm shift

Syria needs to be free of its societal fissures and religious militias

The regime of Bashar al-Assad has fallen in Syria. The Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former arm of al-Qaeda that had rebranded itself, is now the most powerful force in the country. Between a secular dictatorship that collapsed like a house of cards and a surging group of militants with a menacing recent past lies the present and future of 23.5 million Syrians. Eight years ago, Mr. Assad seemed to be winning the civil war. He had recaptured most of the lost territories, with help from Russia, Iran and Hezbollah. A tense calm prevailed as militants holed themselves up in the tiny northwestern region of Idlib. In the southeast, the Kurds enjoyed limited autonomy, but bought peace with Damascus. Syria was readmitted into the Arab League. Gulf monarchs, who once funded the anti-Assad militancy, embraced him. But his victory was hollow, as he relied on external allies for security. His army, which fought years of civil war, was in bad shape. Under crippling U.S. sanctions, the government's finances were in a shambles. The country never recovered from the scars of the civil war. To tackle dissent, the regime turned up repression, widening the social schisms.

However, what made Mr. Assad's dramatic fall on December 8 possible were factors beyond his direct control. After the Israel-Hamas war broke out in 2023, Israel has carried out air strikes in Syria, which weakened its armed forces. Israel's war against Hezbollah substantially limited the Lebanese outfit's ability to continue to help Mr. Assad. Iran, which lost officers in Syria, also took a step back, while Russia has been preoccupied with the Ukraine war. The weakening and distraction of the alliance provided the HTS, backed by Türkiye, a golden opportunity. And it took just 12 days for the HTS, and other militias, to reach Damascus as the regime army melted away. With Mr. Assad gone, Syria has an opportunity to build a new future. But the key actors of change are far from promising. The HTS wants to turn Syria, a diverse country with Sunnis, Alawites, Christians, Shias and Druze, into an Islamic state. The Syrian National Army, a sidekick of the HTS, is a Turkish proxy. In the south, there are numerous local militias. It is to be seen whether the winners of the civil war are going to unite under a national flag or, as in the case of the post-Communist Afghanistan or post-Qadhafi Libya, going to start a new one. A desirable outcome would be the establishment of a transition government, a disarming of the militias and the laying of the foundations of an inclusive new republic. But given Syria's tumultuous history, societal fissures, and the ideological and programmatic characteristics of the militias, a likelier outcome would be more chaos and instability. That is the tragedy of Syria.

Under Trump 2.0, the world and the India outlook

M.K. Narayanan

a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser, and a former Governor of West Bengal

Confirming the adage that the victor takes all, the stunning victory achieved by Donald Trump in the 2024 United States presidential election has transformed perceptions of him across the globe. There is many a reference to him being the most consequential American President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and of defining a new political era for America and the world. Similar hyperbolic statements have been made to the effect that following his latest victory, 'the world lies at Trump's feet'.

President-elect Trump is an enigma, and may remain so even after he takes office. Whether he would fit the description of being an iconoclast remains to be seen, but he is known to challenge 'cherished beliefs or venerated institutions on grounds that they are erroneous or pernicious'. Having also taken control of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the incoming President seems unstoppable.

With few restraints remaining, speculation is rife about what he may do, including whether he could strike a deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, over Ukraine, impose still greater burdens on Iran to bring down the temperature in West Asia, and find ways and means to rein in Israel.

What the foreign policy outlook might be

It appears almost certain that Mr. Trump's foreign policy priorities would be Europe, West Asia and China. Mr. Trump has been openly critical of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and even more so of Europe's pusillanimous attitude to defence issues, but this does not mean that he will be ready to sacrifice Ukraine to ensure peace in Europe. His approach is also unlikely to be transactional in nature and, hence, giving up on Ukraine for ensuring peace in Europe appears highly unlikely. Mr. Trump would, however, expect Europe to contribute far more towards its defence, but is again unlikely to raise the stakes still higher, to avoid Ukraine turning into a conflict that implicitly takes on the character of a third world war.

The incoming President's approach to the West Asia crisis is likely to be still more circumspect, notwithstanding speculation to the contrary. While both Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have sought to ingratiate themselves with him, Mr. Trump is unlikely to be taken in by such manoeuvres. Anyone who is familiar with Mr. Trump's thinking and his family business dealings, would know what his priorities are likely to be and where they lie. On what specific terms Mr. Trump would agree to a *modus vivendi* in West Asia is still in the realm of speculation, but prolongation of the conflict on Israel's terms appears highly unlikely.

There is every reason to believe that U.S. President-elect Donald Trump would be inclined to view India more favourably than others

There is much greater certainty in what Mr. Trump's approach and attitude towards China would be. China heads the list of Mr. Trump's 'enemies', followed by North Korea and Iran, with Russia bringing up the rear. It is certain that as President, Mr. Trump would raise the stakes as far as China is concerned on economic and trade issues, including tighter export controls, and raising tariffs on Chinese exports to unprecedented heights. He is, however, likely to avoid any rash actions, conscious of the fact that China's Peoples' Liberation Army has been steadily preparing to confront the U.S. for quite some time and cannot be easily trifled with. The U.S. is also aware that China is known to possess the world's largest hypersonic arsenal, having missiles that can fly and manoeuvre at more than five times the speed of sound. China may be Mr. Trump's enemy number one, but this is no reason to think that he would resort to any rash moves, that may well lead to a wider conflagration.

Taiwan would remain a potential flash point. Nevertheless, like Sumo wrestlers, the U.S. under Mr. Trump and China under President Xi Jinping are more likely to test the ground reality, before embarking on a conflict that will not stop with Taiwan, the Pacific region or East Asia. Existing U.S. alliances with nations in Asia and Australasia are certain to be strengthened, and already established links with Australia, Japan and South Korea would be further intensified. Yet, as President, Mr. Trump is unlikely to act as a guarantor of peace across the region, and one to be paid for by the U.S. exchequer. Notwithstanding the impatience that he displays at present, there will be certain limits as far as his actions as President are concerned.

Ties with New Delhi

Among the more important countries across the world, there is every reason to believe that Mr. Trump would be inclined to view India more favourably than others. There are several reasons for this. The personality of Mr. Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, are in many ways not dissimilar; both demonstrate a 'no nonsense' approach to issues and problems and also appear to see them through a common prism. Both are powerful leaders who do not allow their political aides and others to change or alter the trajectory of their beliefs under any circumstances. Their dislike for China is visceral, and people in India are not likely to forget that in the wake of the Galwan incident in June 2020 (in which India lost 20 soldiers), Mr. Trump as U.S. President at the time appeared to support India.

Capping the relationship between Mr. Trump, then President, and Mr. Modi was the 'Namaste Trump' event (in February 2020) in Ahmedabad. The event which attracted over a lakh of people was, perhaps, the largest gathering for a foreign leader visiting India. On this occasion, Mr. Modi had hailed Mr. Trump as a 'true friend of India' and a leader who was reshaping geopolitics.

During Mr. Trump's previous tenure, both he and Mr. Modi seemed to arrive at a common understanding on issues and concerns affecting the Asia-Pacific region. Little has changed since. If anything, the emphasis on cooperation between the two countries in defence, trade and counter-terrorism has only increased. On his previous visit to India as President, Mr. Trump had made a specific mention of the $3 billion military deal that existed between the two countries.

As incoming President, Mr. Trump is certain to be gratified that one of his first acts would be to sign a $1.17 billion deal for equipping MH-60R helicopters. He would also be happy that India has firmed up its relationship with the Quad (comprising Australia, Japan, the U.S. and India), which is perceived as an anti-China alliance, even though India does not per se share the view that it is a security alliance.

Mr. Trump, has also endeared himself to many Indians and the Indian establishment by making common cause with India over the plight of the Hindu minority in Bangladesh, who are facing a great deal of hostility from sectarian Islamic entities in that country, and who had forced former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee the country. This has further helped build an atmosphere of cordiality and friendship which will stand the two countries in good stead.

The role of technology

On the economic plane, India enjoys a slight advantage in terms of balance of payments, but this is nothing compared with what exists today between China and the U.S. In the case of U.S.-India relations, technology is certain to be a cementing rather than a divisive factor. Silicon Valley, which has a sizeable contingent of Indian tech entrepreneurs, could well serve as a vanguard to cement the relationship, quite contrary to the case of China. If innovation and dynamism is expected to be the hallmark of the new Trump Administration – with Elon Musk and others driving it – then the U.S.-India technological relationship is well set to approach the take-off point. India-U.S. relations will follow suit.

In energy-dependent world, the issue of food security

Anupama Sen

associated with the UK Trade Policy Observatory (UKTPO), University of Sussex

Amit Mitra

with the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi

"Addressing food insecurity and energy poverty is central to achieving global stability, but tackling these issues independently is no longer sufficient," warns the World Bank in its latest report on climate and development. The intertwined crises of food and energy security are defining the trajectory of the 21st century, casting a long shadow over global stability. Both systems are under siege – food production is strained by climate change, population growth, and inequality, while energy systems face geopolitical tensions, outdated infrastructure, and the slow transition from fossil fuels. Yet, their interconnectedness presents an even greater challenge: agriculture, a lifeline for humanity, is both a significant energy consumer and a contributor to climate change. As the world teeters on the edge of multiple tipping points, can we truly address one without confronting the other?

Dependency on carbon-intensive energy

Agriculture consumes nearly 70% of global freshwater resources and is responsible for over 20% of greenhouse gas emissions. Its dependence on fossil fuels – for mechanisation, irrigation, fertilizer production, and transportation –has created a vicious cycle of environmental degradation. This reliance also exposes food systems to energy price shocks, threatening global stability. Rising temperatures and erratic weather patterns further disrupt agricultural output, putting the livelihoods of 2.5 billion people at risk. Between 2020 and 2023, nearly 11.8% of the global population faced severe food insecurity, a figure projected to rise to 956 million by 2028.

Renewable energy investments reached $500 billion in 2022, but fossil fuel consumption remains robust due to short-term economic and geopolitical pressures. Nations such as the United States, Brazil, and Guyana continue to expand oil and gas production, prioritising exports and domestic energy security. This ongoing dependency on carbon-intensive energy exacerbates the vulnerability of global food systems, particularly in regions with limited access to reliable energy. Energy poverty reveals sharp global inequities. Low-income countries account for a small fraction of global energy demand but suffer disproportionately from supply disruptions. Extreme weather events frequently damage energy infrastructure in regions where power grids are already unreliable. In rural areas, energy deficits hinder agricultural productivity, leading to higher food prices and deepening poverty. In sub-Saharan Africa, per-hectare fertilizer usage remains far below the global average, contributing to food insecurity despite $1.9 billion spent on fertilizer imports by the top 10 African importing countries in 2021 – more than double the amount in 2016.

There is a need to reimagine agriculture, with the twin crises of food and energy insecurity set to challenge global priorities

Agriculture's reliance on fossil fuels further highlights its vulnerability. Natural gas, critical for fertilizer production, is both a feedstock and an energy source, with 80% of it used for ammonia synthesis and 20% powering the process. Volatility in natural gas prices directly impacts fertilizer costs and global food prices. Geopolitical actions, such as China's 2021 ban on phosphate fertilizer exports, disrupt agricultural supply chains. India, which imports 60% of its diammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizers, experienced significant delays during critical cropping seasons, exposing its vulnerability to external shocks.

Renewable energy offers a glimmer of hope, but its deployment remains uneven. High-income countries installed 83% of new renewable capacity in 2022, leaving low-income nations reliant on outdated, carbon-intensive systems. While solar-powered irrigation and biomass energy solutions could transform agriculture, high costs and inadequate infrastructure limit their reach. The transition risks bypassing those who need it most.

Demands on agriculture

Meanwhile, agriculture is being increasingly burdened with competing demands. Beyond feeding a growing population, it is expected to support the global energy transition by producing biofuels. This dual role often pits food security against energy needs, as biofuel production requires vast land and water resources. In a world where nearly 12% of the population faces hunger, is prioritising energy over food morally defensible? The financial costs of addressing food and energy insecurity are substantial yet achievable. The World Food Security Outlook estimates that ensuring basic caloric needs for the world's most vulnerable populations will require $90 billion annually until 2030. Tackling malnutrition among women and children demands an additional $11 billion per year, while transforming global food systems could cost $300 billion-$400 billion annually – just 0.5% of global GDP. However, for low-income nations, these costs are staggering, with food insecurity expenses in some cases surpassing 95% of GDP.

The implications of inaction are dire. Food insecurity is projected to cost the global economy trillions in lost productivity and adverse health outcomes. Climate-induced energy disruptions threaten to destabilise entire regions, driving social unrest and mass migration. For example, Africa's mineral wealth, essential for renewable technologies, is often extracted without benefiting local economies, perpetuating cycles of poverty and underdevelopment.

Need for inclusivity

Despite record investments in renewables, fossil fuel expansions continue unabated. Every delay compounds the human, environmental, and economic costs, narrowing opportunities for a resilient future. Clean energy solutions must address structural barriers to inclusivity, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities are not left behind.

Ultimately, the twin crises of food and energy insecurity challenge global priorities. The solutions are within reach, but they require a fundamental shift in perspective. Agriculture must be reimagined as both a source of sustenance and a cornerstone of sustainable development. Failure to act will create the risk of pushing millions into hunger and undermining global climate goals. As the clock ticks, the question remains: will the world rise to meet the moment?

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parliament or battlefield?

Even though Parliament is one of the tallest democratic institutions of the country, with a mandate to debate policymaking and national progress and represent the will of the people, it has increasingly become synonymous with disruptions and pandemonium to the dismay of conscientious citizens of the country. While the Opposition has increasingly been using disruptions as a tool to stall the government's agenda, the government has been stalling proceedings to scuttle discussion on issues raised by the Opposition. It is time parties across the political spectrum ensure that Parliament does not become a battleground for political rivalry. There is a need to prioritise the nation's interests over short-term political gains.

M. Jeyaram,
Sholavandan, Tamil Nadu

Any hope of having peaceful parliamentary sessions lies shattered. In the tussle over 'Adani' and 'George Soros', matters of concern are being totally ignored. What is at stake is the very future of our parliamentary democracy. Brandishing pocket editions of the Constitution means nothing. Both sides across the aisle have to change from behaving like street fighters to becoming respectable and responsible representatives of the people who voted them to power. The ruling party has to be less arbitrary in the use of its majority and recognise the merit of "give and take". When it comes to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, there is a yawning gap in terms of attitude, experience and political maturity. It would take a deep sense of statesmanship on both sides to recognise their obligation to act in the national interest.

T.C. Narayan,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Indians need the right to disconnect

Rajesh Ranjan

Lawyer and researcher and former co- convenor, Constitutional law Society, National Law University, Jodhpur

Soon after death of an EY employee in September, allegedly due to work pressure, MP Shashi Tharoor had said that he would raise the issue in Parliament. He said that "inhumanity at the workplace must be legislated out of existence." A recent report by *The Hindu* reveals that Indian women in professional jobs, such as auditing, Information Technology, and media, work more than 55 hours a week. The working hours vary for those who belong to the marginalised sections of society and work in the unorganised sector. According to a study by ADP Research Institute, 49% of Indian workers said workplace stress negatively impacts their mental health. As French politician Benoit Hamon said, "Employees physically leave the office, but they do not leave their work. They remain attached by a kind of electronic leash like a dog. The text, the messages, the emails colonise the life of the individual to the point where he or she eventually breaks down".

Right to disconnect laws

Such tragic incidents, research, and statements highlight how the right to disconnect is an important right. It allows employees to disconnect from their employer outside of working hours. The Labour Chamber of the French Supreme Court ruled in 2001 that an employee is under no obligation to work from home or take home files and working tools. This decision was subsequently confirmed by the Cour de Cassation (the highest court in the French judiciary), which said, "The fact that [the employee] was not reachable on his cell phone outside working hours cannot be considered as a misconduct". Portugal has a Right to Disconnect law, which makes it illegal for employers to contact employees outside working hours, except in emergencies. Similarly, according to Article 88 of the Organic Law 3/2018 on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights in Spain, "Public workers and employees shall have the right to switch off devices in order to guarantee that, outside of legal or conventionally established working hours, their time off, leave and holidays are respected, in addition to their personal and family privacy, with the aim of promoting a good work-life balance". This year, the Australian Parliament passed the Fair Work Legislation Amendment, which gave employees the right to disconnect from work outside of working hours. Ireland has also recognised the right to disconnect for employees.

Where does India stand?

India does not have specific laws recognising the right to disconnect from work. However, the Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy, and various judicial pronouncements have spoken of the right to work in a conducive and healthy environment. Article 38 of the Constitution mandates that "the State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people". Article 39(e) of the Directive Principles of State Policy directs the state to direct its policy towards securing the strength and health of its workers. The Supreme Court, in *Vishakha v State of Rajasthan* (1997), ruled that sexual harassment at the workplace violates fundamental rights, recognised the right to dignity at the workplace, and issued guidelines to ensure that there is a safe working environment for women and gender equality. In *Ravindra Kumar Dhariwal and Ors v. Union of India* (2021), the Court read Article 14 to include ideas of inclusive equality to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said that an employer must consider an employee's individual differences and capabilities. In *Praveen Pradhan v. State of Uttaranchal* (2012), the High Court of Uttarakhand held that "under the pretext of administrative control and discipline, a superior officer cannot be left to enjoy extreme liberty to make the intense humiliation and scolding inhumanly in front of all the subordinate staff members for a little lapse." Despite the clear recognition of the right to dignity at the workplace and a direction for employers to be sensitive towards mental health concerns, and also laws that fix accountability in the case of breaching working hours, violating dignity is unfortunately common in Indian workplaces.

> India must recognise that the right to disconnect will increase productivity and ensure the overall growth and well-being of employees and employers

Prolonged working hours

In 2018, MP Supriya Sule introduced a Private Member Bill in the Lok Sabha, which delineated the right to disconnect from work after working hours. The bill included the provision of a penalty of 1% of the total renumeration of all employees to be paid by companies for noncompliance with its provisions.

However, in recent years, there has been no significant legislative effort to recognise employees' right to disconnect from work outside working hours or to impose a duty on employers to be mindful of employee well-being and avoid overworking them. Research by *Harvard Business Review* shows that working prolonged hours causes stress, coronary heart diseases, and impacts overall health. Contrary to the widespread belief that overworked human beings bring in productivity, research by the University of Oxford in collaboration with British multinational telecoms firm BT found a conclusive link between happiness and productivity. Therefore, employers need to take into account psychological factors while dealing with employees. In its march towards becoming the third largest economy by 2030, India must recognise that the right to disconnect will increase productivity and ensure the growth and well-being of both employees and employers.

An onerous task in Odisha

After the initial euphoria, the BJP government confronts legacy problems

STATE OF PLAY

Satyasundar Barik
satyasundar.b@thehindu.co.in

The Mohan Majhi-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government ascended to power with the promise of transforming Odisha's image, which has long been associated with poverty and backwardness. During the election campaign earlier this year, the party had accused former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik of failing to uplift a large section of population living below the poverty line.

Some events in the State in recent months show that promises are easier made than implemented. In November, three women died after consuming gruel made of mango kernel, a traditional food preserved by tribal communities for times of food scarcity, in Kandhamal district. In the last month or so, four women have sold their newborns, unable to provide for them amid acute poverty. These are stark examples of why Odisha is often cited as an underdeveloped State and remind the new government of the challenges that lie ahead.

These incidents have been reported in the past too. In 2001, in Rayagada district, 24 tribal people had died after eating gruel made of mango kernel. In the 1980s, Odisha had grabbed international headlines when a woman in Kalahandi district sold her 14-year-old sister-in-law to buy food, signalling the State's deep-rooted poverty.

Since the oath-taking ceremony on June 12, the new BJP government has fulfilled four major poll promises: initiating payment of ₹50,000 to every woman between the ages of 21 and 60, increasing the minimum support price for paddy to ₹3,100, opening all the four doors of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Puri, and increasing the monthly pensions to the elderly and to the disabled to ₹3,000. This is largely because the new government enjoys the financial means to fulfil its promises. Over the past 24 years, Odisha's financial health has undergone a remarkable transformation: the State has shifted from a revenue-deficit economy to a revenue-surplus one, driven by prudent fiscal management and substantial revenue from its rich mineral resources.

However, the deaths of the women and the sale of the babies caused embarrassment to the party. The BJP blamed the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), which was in power for 24 years, for alleged misgovernance. However, Opposition parties hit back at the BJP, arguing that its claims of being new to governing Odisha cannot absolve it of all responsibility. Mr. Patnaik stated that his government's efforts of providing food to the tribal communities had been rendered futile, as the "BJP government had abruptly halted subsidised rice supplies for tribal communities".

The BJP has also not been able to do much to tackle alleged corruption. During the election campaign, the saffron party had talked about deep-rooted corruption in the BJD government. In his recent statements during the winter session of the State Assembly, the Odisha Chief Minister slammed the previous government saying jobs were provided in lieu of bribes. Six months have passed since the party came to power, but the new government has not ordered an investigation into any of the corruption cases that the BJP had highlighted. On the contrary, two Indian Police Service officers who were accused of meddling in the Assembly elections on behalf of the BJD were swiftly reinstated. Political observers point out that this shows lack of decisiveness on part of the new government.

There has also been no significant shake-up in the bureaucracy, which would help the BJP move away from the governance model of the previous BJD government.

The BJP government faces an uphill task in improving many key indices. The latest report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India states that the overall vacancy of specialist doctors in the State was 49% and 40% for medical officers as of March 2022. In the case of staff nurses and nursing officers, 30% posts were vacant. The human resources available in hospitals across the State did not meet the Indian Public Health Standards. The doctor to population ratio was 1:1,622 against the World Health Organization requirement of 1:1,000.

Steering a government on the path of development is far more difficult than shouting slogans from the gallery. The BJP government faces the difficult task of overturning Odisha's unfortunate legacy of poverty, unemployment, and terrible public infrastructure. It is important that it stays focused on ensuring steady and effective governance in the State.

India used 114 mg of antibiotics for every kg of meat in 2020

Of the 190 countries for which the data was collected, India ranked 30th in terms of antibiotic usage in animals

DATA POINT

Hannah Ritchie
Fiona Spooner

For humanity, antibiotics are a huge blessing. Antibiotics have saved millions of lives from bacterial infections. However, there is growing concern that these bacteria will become resistant to the drugs we use against them.

When we think about antimicrobial resistance, we often focus on what drugs humans take. We might not even consider the use of antibiotics in livestock, but they also pose a threat.

In fact, much more antibiotics are given to livestock than to humans. Researchers previously estimated that, in the 2010s, around 70% of antibiotics used globally were given to farm animals. While there hasn't been an update of these figures in the last few years, it's likely that more antibiotics are still used in livestock than humans.

Overusing antibiotics in livestock increases the risk of disease in animals and humans in several ways. First, antibiotics are often used as a cheap substitute for basic animal welfare practices, such as giving animals enough space, keeping their living environments clean, and ensuring that barns are well-ventilated. A failure to maintain hygienic conditions on farms increases the risk of disease for both livestock and humans.

Second, the overuse of antibiotics can also increase the risk of bacteria that are resistant to treatment. That threatens the health of the animals but can also be a risk for humans for crossover diseases.

Finally, humans can be exposed to resistant pathogens by eating contaminated meat and dairy products.

One of the key challenges in understanding the extent and risks of antibiotic resistance in livestock is the lack of transparent data sharing from countries. Of course, comparing the total amount of antibiotics given to cows, sheep, pigs, and chickens would be unfair. Cows are bigger than chickens, so we would expect them to need more antibiotics for the same impact. So, researchers compare antibiotic use in units adjusted for the size of animals – usually as the number of milligrams used per kilogramme of meat product.

Chickens tend to receive the least antibiotics. You can see this in **Chart 1:** they receive about seven times less than sheep and five times less than pigs. Cows also receive less than pigs and sheep.

Antibiotic use is measured in milligrams per kg of animal product. Sheep have the highest usage at 243 mg, followed by pigs at 173 mg, cattle at 60 mg, and chickens at 35 mg.

One of the reasons why antibiotics are used in lower quantities in chickens is that they are killed at a much younger age. Fast-growing breeds reach their "slaughter weight" at around 42 days, so they are often slaughtered when they are just 40 to 50 days old. Since their lifespan is shorter, they consume fewer antibiotics. Pigs are usually slaughtered when they are around five to six months. The fact that intensive livestock get far more antibiotics than animals raised outdoors is one reason why cows tend to get less antibiotics than pigs.

Of course, the exact amount of antibiotics given varies across countries. Researchers Ranya Mulchandani and colleagues estimated antibiotic use across the world based on the best available data, as well as extrapolations for those countries that don't release data.

Map 2 shows antibiotic usage in livestock per kg of meat in 2020. Asia, Oceania, and most of the Americas use a lot of antibiotics. Europe and Africa, in blue, tend to use less than 50 mg per kg. For instance, India used 114 mg of antibiotics in livestock per kg of meat in 2020, compared to 4 mg in Norway – 30 times less. Of the 190 countries for which the data was collected, India ranked 30th in terms of antibiotic usage in animals. There are a few reasons why these differences are so large.

The first one is affordability and access: farmers in Africa, for example, have less access, just like they have less access to other farming inputs, such as fertilizers.

Another reason is the differences in regulatory and industry norms regarding antibiotic use. Antibiotic use has dropped significantly in Europe, partly due to regulation.

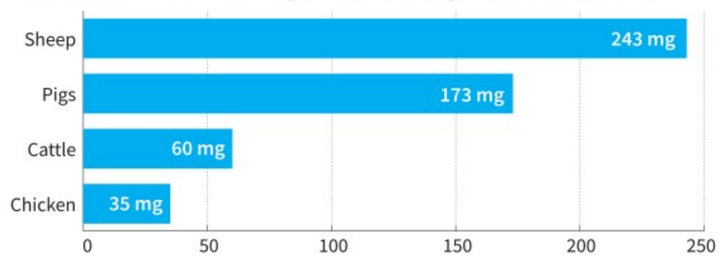
Finally, the most popular types of livestock make a difference. As we saw earlier, sheep and pigs tend to receive far more antibiotics than cattle or chickens, even after adjusting for their size. That means countries that raise many pigs would tend to use more antibiotics. More than half of Thailand's meat supply is in the form of pig meat. In China, it is two-thirds. That's more than the global average of one-third.

Some countries have reduced antibiotic use a lot. Antibiotics can play an important role in preventing disease and illness in animals. This is no different from humans. So, removing them completely is not necessarily the best option.

The key is to use them more effectively: changing farming practices to reduce antibiotic use where it's in excess or using antibiotics in smaller quantities when it is needed. Many antibiotics given today are not used to prevent disease but to promote growth and produce meat more efficiently.

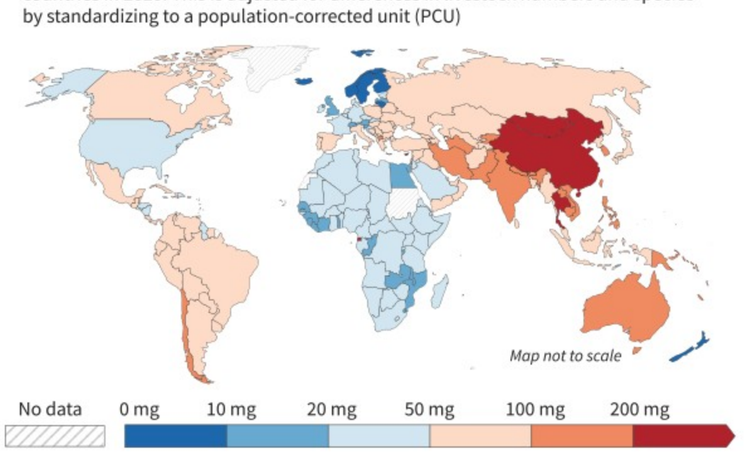
We know countries can reduce antibiotic use while maintaining healthy livestock sectors because some countries have already achieved rapid reductions. Between 2011 and 2022, sales of veterinary antibiotics fell by more than half across several European countries. The use of antibiotics considered critically important in human medicine also fell by half, with some specific drugs falling by 80% to 90%.

Chart 1: The chart compares antibiotic use on livestock, in units adjusted for the size of animals — number of milligrams used per kilogramme of meat product



This was the global average in 2020. Rates of antibiotic use can vary by country.

Map 2:The map shows antibiotic usage in livestock per kilogramme of meat across countries in 2020. This is adjusted for differences in livestock numbers and species by standardizing to a population-corrected unit (PCU)



Fiona Spooner is Senior Data Scientist and Hannah Ritchie is Deputy Editor and Science Outreach Lead in Our World In Data

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FROM THE DECEMBER 9, 1974 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON DECEMBER 10, 1974

Thant laid to rest in mausoleum built by students

Rangoon, Dec. 8: The body of U Thant, former U.N. Secretary General, was buried this afternoon at a site chosen by students in defiance of his relatives who wanted him buried elsewhere in the city.

U Thant, who died of cancer in New York on November 26 at the age of 65, was laid to rest in a hastily-constructed mausoleum near the former Students Union Building, demolished during student riots in 1962.

Earlier in the mornings, the body, draped in a U.N. flag, was taken from the convocation hall in a procession of monks and students to the burial site. While people shuffled past the coffin, placed on a specially erected dais topped by golden umbrellas, the students decided by voice vote to go ahead with their burial plans.

In a final mark of respect the students observed a minute's silence and then raised the coffin over their heads for the mourners to see amid shouts of "victory, victory".

While the body was being buried, thousands of Burmese had lined another funeral route to a mausoleum which the Burmese leader's relatives had built near the Shedagon Pagoda, the country's most sacred Buddhist shrine, in the heart of Rangoon.

The mausoleum, built by the relatives with the help of the Burmese authorities, lies beside the tomb of Burma's grand old man of politics, Thakin Kodaw Hmaing.

The students had seized U Thant's body on Thursday in front of 50,000 mourners, shortly before it was due to be buried at a public ceremony because they wanted a more fitting funeral and a special mausoleum in his honour.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 10, 1924

The Amrit Mahal cattle

It was from a Palegar conqueror that Tippu Sultan obtained the Amrit Mahal breed of cattle in Mysore, and that warrior prince maintained the purity of the breed with the greatest care till Seringapatanam surrendered to the British. The cattle in Mysore were so excellent that the British military authorities were not altogether oblivious of the breed for purposes of dragging cannons and stores over difficult country.

From Page One

Govt. stable, says Syria PM amid Israeli strikes

The Kremlin said Russia had granted political asylum to Mr. Assad, a decision made by President Vladimir Putin. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov declined to comment on Mr. Assad's specific whereabouts and said Mr. Putin was not planning to meet with him.

Damascus was quiet on Monday, with life slowly returning to normal while most shops and public institutions were closed. In some areas, small groups of armed men were stationed in the streets.

Mr. Jalali, who remained in his post after Mr. Assad and most of his top officials vanished over the weekend, has sought to project normalcy. "We are working so that the transitional period is quick and smooth," he told Sky News Arabia TV.

The militants, meanwhile, said they would guarantee personal freedoms and would not impose Islamic dress on women.

Misri airs 'concerns' over safety of minorities

"At the same time, we also had the opportunity to discuss certain recent developments and issues, and I conveyed our concerns, including those related to the safety and welfare of minorities," he said in a statement at the end of the consultation with the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary.

Addressing the Indian side, Mr. Jashim Uddin conveyed concerns of the interim government regarding the December 2 "violent incident on the premises of Assistant High Commission of Bangladesh in Agartala".

"On the issues of minorities, he emphasised that Bangladesh government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of the people of Bangladesh irrespective of their faiths, religions and ethnicities and that it is an internal matter of Bangladesh," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Mr. Misri, who was accompanied by Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma and other officials, said, "We also discussed some regrettable incidents of attacks on cultural, religious and diplomatic properties." He reached out to the stakeholders in Bangladesh and said, "India desires a positive, constructive, and mutually beneficial relationship with Bangladesh." He termed India-Bangladesh relation as a "people-centric and people-oriented relationship" that is reflected in the development projects that have been carried out "on the ground in Bangladesh".

Reservation must not be based on religion: SC

The court had asked the State to respond to allegations that no meaningful consultations were held by the State with the West Bengal Backward Classes Commission before the designation of these communities as OBCs.

The court had also asked West Bengal to include details of whether consultation was done while sub-classifying these castes for the purpose of reservation. "The State shall clarify the nature of the survey and material in its possession which led to the inclusion," the apex court had said.

The High Court judgment had impacted five lakh OBC certificates issued in the State since 2010. The High Court had, however, clarified that its judgment would not impact individuals who had already secured employment using the OBC certificates issued since 2010. It had struck down portions of the West Bengal Backward Classes (Other than Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) (Reservation of Vacancies in Services and Posts) Act, 2012.

Among the Sections nullified were Section 16, the second part of Section 2(h), and Section 5(a) of the Act, which distributed reservation percentages of 10% and 7% to sub-classified categories. Consequently, the sub-classified categories OBC-A and OBC-B were removed from Schedule I of the Act.

'Give details of damaged properties amid clashes'

Mr. Mehta submitted that the State's first priority was to contain the violence and then to retrieve the arms and ammunition. "We will file the details," Mr. Mehta said.

Senior advocate Vibha Makhija, appearing for the Justice Gita Mittal panel appointed by the apex court to monitor rehabilitation in the State, highlighted that blockages were affecting the recovery.

Mr. Mehta said there were circumstances in the State which should be dealt with without aggression. A lawyer referred to an application filed by people displaced by the violence in the Northeastern State. The Solicitor General said such grievances could be placed before the Justice Mittal Committee.

A lawyer submitted that violence in the State had not ended, and the situation was getting "worse and worse".

One of the counsel appearing in the case said the court must ask the State for details of the "total quantum of weapons recovered".

Mr. Mehta said the State was ready to give the information but urged the court not to record the fact in the order.

After Assad's ouster, India calls for inclusive political process in Syria

New Delhi says all parties in the country must 'work towards preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria'; experts say India must pay close attention to events both inside Syria and its borders with Israel, Turkiye, and Iraq

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Monday called for a peaceful and inclusive political process in Syria to find a resolution to the dramatic turn of events after President Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia and militant groups claimed control of the capital, Damascus.

The events took New Delhi by surprise, given that the Ministry of External Affairs had hosted Foreign Office Consultations with Syrian officials less than a fortnight ago.

As the Ministry issued its first formal reaction to the end of the 50-year-long Assad family rule, which India has historically had close ties with, experts warned that New Delhi must watch for the spillover effects of the regime-change across West Asia.

"We are monitoring the situation in Syria in the light of on-going developments," the Ministry said in a statement, calling for all parties in the country to "work towards preserving the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria".

Mystery trail: Rescuers search for hidden basements at Saydnaya jail in Damascus, synonymous with atrocities of Assad's rule. AFP

"We advocate a peaceful and inclusive Syrian-led political process respecting the interests and aspirations of all sections of Syrian society," it added, given rising concerns that the new regime in Syria may target minorities, including the Alawites, Druze, Kurds, and Christians. On December 6, India had issued an advisory telling Indians to avoid travel to the country.

Mr. Assad's ouster came as armed fighters belonging to the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), originally set up in 2011 as the al-Qaeda and Islamic State-affiliated Jabhat al-Nusra group, led by Saudi Arabia-born rebel commander Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, captured Aleppo, Homs, and Hama, eventually overrunning the capital Damascus city on Saturday.

On Sunday, Mr. Jolani, dressed in battle fatigues, entered the 1,300-year-old Umayyad mosque in the centre of the city, vowing that the changes would write a "new history for the region". He accused the Assad regime of allowing Iran to dominate the country.

"For India, Syria has been a keystone of the regional architecture, and any abrupt and fundamental change in its internal polity is bound to have a seismic impact in the region," said Gautam Mukhopadhaya at the Centre for Policy Research.

Mr. Mukhopadhaya, a former Ambassador to Syria, said India must pay close attention to events both inside Syria and its borders with Israel, Turkiye, and Iraq.

"Any instability radiating from Syria will affect everything in the Gulf region that is important for India, from energy security, to trade and business, to the fate of Indian nationals employed in the region, especially if Israel takes its offensive towards Iran," he added.

According to Mr. Mukhopadhaya, the collapse of the Syrian Army in the past few days had been even more unexpected than what happened in Afghanistan, where the Taliban claimed power in 2021.

Significantly, India and Syria had held their sixth round of Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi on November 29.

Delegations led by the Joint Secretary of the External Affairs Ministry and the Syrian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates had discussed bilateral cooperation with special focus on pharmaceuticals, developmental partnership, and capacity building.

"India and Syria enjoy warm and friendly relations based on historic and civilizational ties. India has been a keen developmental partner for Syria and is also actively involved in capacity building of the Syrian youth," the MEA release had said.

Approach EC to enact POSH Act in political parties: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court of India on Monday asked a petitioner seeking application of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, or the POSH Act, of 2013 in political parties, to first approach the Election Commission of India.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Manmohan was hearing a petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer, Yogamaya M.G., represented by senior advocate Shobha Gupta and advocate Sriram Parakkat, for a judicial declaration that political parties were bound to comply with the POSH Act, including the constitution of an Internal Complaints Committee.

Justice Kant said the Election Commission was the "competent authority" as far as political parties were concerned.

The court said in case the petitioner's concern was not addressed effectively, she could move the appropriate judicial forum in accordance with law.

Frigate *INS Tushil* commissioned into Indian Navy in Kaliningrad

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and Russia will enter a new era of cooperation by taking advantage of each other's expertise in areas such as Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity, space exploration and counter-terrorism, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday at the commissioning of the stealth guided missile frigate *INS Tushil* at Kaliningrad, Russia.

Rajnath Singh during the commissioning ceremony of stealth guided missile frigate *INS Tushil* in the Baltic port of Kaliningrad. AFP

"Made in India content is continuously increasing in many ships including *INS Tushil*. The ship is a big proof of the collaborative prowess of Russian and Indian industries. It exemplifies India's journey towards technological excellence through jointmanship," he said at the commissioning ceremony.

INS Tushil is an upgraded Krivak III class frigate of Project 1135.6 of which, six are already in service – three Talwar class ships, built at Baltiysky shipyard, St. Petersburg, and three follow-on Teg class ships, built at Yantar shipyard, Kaliningrad. All Krivak frigates are powered by engines from Zorya Nashproekt of Ukraine.

INS Tushil, the seventh in the series, is the first of the two additional follow-on ships under construction in Russia. In October 2016, India and Russia signed a deal for four stealth frigates, two to be built in Russia and two to be constructed at Goa Shipyard Ltd. under technology transfer.

The second frigate *Tamal* is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy in Russia in the first quarter of next year. The construction saw repeated delays initially due to COVID-19 and then the war in Ukraine.

"Our Navy has foiled the designs of piracy, arms and drug smugglers and non-state actors in various hotspots. From the Gulf of Oman to the Gulf of Aden, from Suez to Malacca & from Australia to Madagascar, the Indian Navy is playing the essential role of a net security provider in IOR. India, along with its friendly countries, believes in ensuring that maritime trade in the region remains safe and secure, thereby promoting unhindered trade across the sea."

As a first responder, the Indian Navy is always prepared to provide quick and timely humanitarian assistance and disaster relief to its friends in the region, Mr. Singh said.

INS Tushil is designed for blue water operations across the spectrum of naval warfare in all four dimensions air, surface, underwater and electromagnetic. It is armed with a range of advanced weapons, the Navy said in a statement.

SC refuses petition to clear blockades by farmers on highways

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea directing the Centre and authorities to immediately clear blockades on National and State highways in Punjab, where farmers are staging protests.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant said there were already similar petitions pending in the court, and it did not want another one to add to the numbers. "We are already examining the larger issue. You are not the only conscience-keeper of society," Justice Kant addressed petitioner Gaurav Luthra, who claimed to be a social activist in Punjab.

The court also refused Mr. Luthra's request to tag the petition with the pending matter. In August, the court had advised statesmanship and empathy on the part of the government while reaching out to protesting farmers who had blockaded the Shambhu boundary between Punjab and Haryana.

Tents of farmers at the Shambhu border in Patiala, Punjab, on Monday. PTI

At the time, the Bench headed by Justice Kant was considering the prospect of opening up the Shambhu boundary in a phased manner to allow free movement for commuters, especially senior citizens, and ambulances.

SC grants permanent commission to woman Army officer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday exercised its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to grant permanent commission to a woman Army officer with a distinguished service record who was wrongly excluded from the consideration when other similarly placed officers were given the benefit.

Supreme Court of India.

"Will it be fair to tell them that they will not be given relief even if they are similarly situated, since the judgment they seek to rely on was passed in the case of certain applicants alone who moved the court? We think that would be a very unfair scenario," Justice Viswanathan, who authored the judgment, observed.

It said that accepting the stand of the respondents in this case would result in the court putting its imprimatur on an "unreasonable stand" adopted by the authorities.

The court delivered its verdict on an appeal filed by a woman officer, who is posted as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Army Dental Corps at Agra, challenging a January 2022 order of the Armed Forces Tribunal Regional Bench, Lucknow.

National Food Security Act still driven by figures from 2011 Census, lawyer tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday orally remarked that a long-term response to problems of food security was to generate employment, even as advocate Prashant Bhushan said the National Food Security Act (NFSA) continued to be driven by figures from the 2011 Census.

Mr. Bhushan argued that the calculation of food grains distributed to States by the Centre under the NFSA banked on a census carried out over 13 years ago. Meanwhile, the pandemic had happened.

The court was hearing a *suo motu* case on food security, especially for migrant workers. The case was originally based on petitions filed by activists Anjali Bharadwaj, Harsh Mander and Jagdeep Chhokar, represented by Mr. Bhushan, seeking directions to the Centre and States to ensure food security, cash transfers, and other welfare measures for distressed migrant workers during the second wave of the pandemic.

The National Food Security Act had 81.35 crore beneficiaries, the Centre said. K.K. MUSTAFAH

During the court hearing before a Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, Mr. Bhushan said the problem was that a Census had not been held in 2021.

"In the last five years, since COVID, the situation of the poor in the country has worsened," the senior lawyer submitted.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Centre, strongly objected to Mr. Bhushan's contentions, maintaining that the NFSA had 81.35 crore eligible beneficiaries.

"It was discriminatory to provide 81 crore people subsidy while two or three more crore people under the same category are excluded. They have not done the Census since 2011... Had they done it, at least 10 crore more would have been found eligible," Mr. Bhushan submitted.

2 Trinamool Cong. workers murdered in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Two Trinamool Congress workers were murdered in two different incidents in West Bengal on Sunday.

One worker, Bishnupada Mondal, was killed in Nandigram following a clash that erupted during cooperative elections.

Mr. Mondal's family and Trinamool workers allege that BJP workers attacked him at his home and murdered him using a sharp object.

Local Trinamool workers protested by blocking roads in multiple places.

Another Trinamool worker, a panchayat ward member, Nuruddin Halder, was killed in South 24 Parganas' Kulpi. Local Trinamool MLA Yogarajan Halder said Mr. Nuruddin was stabbed and shot to death over local disputes.

LS adjourned in a blink; scene no different in RS

'Consensus' reached a week ago to let Parliament function remains a non-starter; both Houses witness tumult over BJP allegation linking the Congress and the U.S. billionaire George Soros

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Both Houses of Parliament failed to function on Monday over the alleged links between U.S.-based businessman George Soros and the Congress, and issues related to the Adani Group.

Exactly a week ago, on December 2, the ruling and Opposition sides had reached an agreement to let Parliament function, reaching a consensus on holding a discussion on the Constitution in both the Houses.

However, on December 5, when the alleged links between Mr. Soros and the Congress were raised by the Treasury benches in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, acrimony returned.

On Monday, as soon as the Lok Sabha convened for the day, Opposition members were on their feet, raising various issues. Speaker Om Birla responded by adjourning the proceedings within a minute.

"Question Hour is significant. Allow the House to function properly. The country wants the House to run. You are disrupting the proceedings of the House," Mr. Birla said adjourning the Lok Sabha till noon.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar listens as Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in the House on Monday. ANI

Similar scenes played out when the House reassembled at noon, with Congress MPs trooping into the Well, shouting slogans. While Samajwadi Party (SP) members joined them in the Well soon, MPs of the Trinamool Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) stood in the aisle and protested.

Finally, at 3 p.m., Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw attempted to reply to a debate on the Railways Amendment Bill, but Mr. Birla adjourned the Lok Sabha for the day.

The Rajya Sabha witnessed two adjournments in the morning session with members of the Treasury benches demanding a discussion on what they termed a "national security issue".

The Upper House witnessed disruptions in the afternoon as well, and was adjourned for the day.

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar invited the Leader of the House, J.P. Nadda, and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, to his chamber to iron out the differences.

As soon as the House resumed, Mr. Dhankhar said he had received 11 notices under Rule 267, including from Sanjay Kumar Jha of the Janata Dal(U), a constituent of the ruling National Democratic Alliance, on "rising threats to national security due to alleged nexus between a political party and some organisations working against India".

Discussion on all the notices, including the one alleging links between Congress leaders and Mr. Soros, were declined by the Chairman, but when the same issue was raised by Laxmikant Bajpai of the Bharatiya Janata Party during Zero Hour with the permission of the Chair, Congress members raised objections.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh objected to Mr. Bajpai's remarks. "When the Chair had rejected notices under Rule 267, the issues mentioned therein should not be allowed to be raised," he said.

Mr. Nadda said BJP members were agitated over an issue that involved Congress leaders and wanted a discussion.

Mr. Kharge objected to the conduct of the Treasury benches in disrupting the proceedings when it did not suit them.

Mr. Dhankhar is scheduled to meet Mr. Nadda and Mr. Kharge at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday.

U.S. State Department should clarify allegations over OCCRP, says BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday said the allegations made by the party on the U.S. State Department with regard to the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) was based on a report by French publication *Mediapart* and that it was up to the U.S. State Department to clarify.

"In this context, during our presser on this issue, we had quoted a media report by a French publication, published in Sarajevo, in which it was made clear that the OCCRP project was funded partially by the U.S. State Department and by George Soros. It is, therefore, incumbent on them [U.S. State Department] to clarify whether what has been said in the report is correct or not," Rajya Sabha member Sudhanshu Trivedi said.

"Therefore, the U.S. State Department should clarify whether or not they are involved in such activities and if they are not, then they should withdraw their support from such OCCRP organisations," he said.

He added that "the last election was the only election in the history of India, where for the first time a foreign government had alleged interference in our electoral process, it was the Russian government that had made those allegations, in the middle of our Lok Sabha polls."

Major reveal: BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi speaks in Rajya Sabha in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

The BJP has been raising the issue of deep state and other actors trying to destabilise the Modi government after a media report on the OCCRP and its activities was published by *Mediapart*.

Response statement

The U.S. State Department on Saturday issued a statement as a response to the BJP's allegations.

"It is disappointing that the ruling party in India would make these kinds of accusations," said the State Department as a response to BJP's accusations.

"The U.S. government works with independent organisations on programming that supports professional development and capacity building training for journalists," a spokesperson of the U.S. Embassy in India said.

"This programming does not influence the editorial decisions or direction of these organisations... The United States has long been a champion of media freedom around the world. A free and independent press is an essential component of any democracy, enabling informed and constructive debate and holding those in power accountable," he added.

Opposition to move notice to remove Vice-President

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties in the INDIA bloc have decided to move a notice to remove Chairman of the Rajya Sabha Jagdeep Dhankhar from his office. The notice will be submitted under Article 67(b) of the Constitution and sources indicated that more than 50 MPs, including members from the Congress, Trinamool Congress, DMK, Samajwadi Party and the Left parties, have agreed to sign on the notice.

Though the Opposition has been mulling about such a move for the last several months, the immediate provocation was the decision by the Chair to disallow Opposition leader Mallikarjun Kharge to speak soon after Leader of the House J.P. Nadda spoke accusing the Congress of destabilising the country with the help of U.S. billionaire George Soros.

The constitutional provision provides for the removal of Vice-President, also the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, from his office "by a resolution of the Council of States passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People.

Centre may introduce simultaneous election Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Keen to hold wider consultations on the proposed Bills to implement simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, Assemblies and local bodies, the Union government may bring these Bills as early as the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, a government source said on Monday.

The source said once the Bill, or a set of Bills, is introduced in Parliament, it is likely to be referred to a joint committee of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha for extensive consultations.

The government is keen to consult the Speakers of various Assemblies through parliamentary committees.

Though the Union Cabinet had accepted the recommendations of former President Ram Nath Kovind-led high-level committee to hold simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha, State Assemblies and local bodies in a phased manner, the Cabinet it yet to approve the proposed Bills.

INDIA leaders protest over Manipur, demand Shah's resignation, Biren's sacking

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

INDIA bloc leaders from Manipur on Monday held a demonstration at Jantar Mantar here over the continuing ethnic conflict in the State, demanding that Union Home Minister Amit Shah resign and Chief Minister N. Biren Singh be sacked for the way the conflict has been handled.

On Monday evening, the Manipur government lifted the restrictions it had imposed on Internet access and mobile data across nine districts after weeks.

The restrictions had been imposed on November 16 across Imphal East, Imphal West, Kangpokpi, Churachandpur, Pherzawl, Jiribam, Bishnupur, Thoubal, and Kakching districts when widespread protests erupted in the State.

The protests had been triggered by the discovery of the bodies of six women and children from the Meitei community, who were abducted and killed by armed militants on November 11.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi addresses a protest at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Monday, demanding peace in Manipur. ANI

The leaders from Manipur included senior office-bearers, MLAs, and MPs of the Congress in the State. Joining them were office-bearers of the Aam Aadmi Party, Shiv Sena (UBT), and Nationalist Congress Party (SP).

Most leaders at Monday's protest belonged to the Meitei community.

Alfred Kanngam Arthur, Lok Sabha member for Outer Manipur of the Congress, was not able to attend the protest because of "health reasons", Th. Lokeshwar Singh, the party's chief whip in Manipur said.

No Kuki-Zomi-Hmar leader was present.

Several other Opposition leaders from across the country also attended the protests, including Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh, Congress Deputy Leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi and Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja.

In a statement by the INDIA bloc on Manipur, the leaders said they "solemnly declare" to work together "irrespective of caste, creed, community, and ethnicity to strengthen the bond of love and unity and integrity of Manipur for peaceful coexistence without enmity and hatred".

BJP spreading 'fake news', says French media house

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Days after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accused the U.S. State Department of fomenting disaffection against the Government of India, the French news outlet *Mediapart*, which the ruling party had cited while making the allegations, said on Sunday that the party was spreading "fake news" using its reports.

In a statement, the publisher and director of *Mediapart*, Carine Fouteau, said, "*Mediapart* firmly condemns the instrumentalisation of its recently published investigative article about OCCRP by the Bharatiya Janata Party of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in order to serve BJP's political agenda and attack press freedom."

"There are no facts available supporting the conspiracy theory promoted by the BJP," the director of *Mediapart* said while expressing solidarity with "courageous Indian and international journalists who report and investigate in India."

Rahul interviews 'Adani' and 'Modi' as Congress presses on with collusion charge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rejecting the Bharatiya Janata Party's allegations that its leadership is colluding with U.S. investor George Soros to destabilise India, the Congress on Monday targeted the Narendra Modi government for "protecting" industrialist Gautam Adani even at the cost of risking relations with another country.

Outside the Makar Dwar of Parliament, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi conducted a mock interview with two of his Lok Sabha and party colleagues, who wore masks and impersonated Prime Minister Modi and Mr. Adani.

Latur MP Shivaji B. Kalge wore a mask of Mr. Modi, and Virudhanagar MP Manickam Tagore played the role of Mr. Adani.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi with Opposition MPs during a protest at the Parliament premises on Monday. ANI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with MPs of other Opposition parties, was present when Mr. Gandhi, amid slogans of "Modi and Adani are one" and "We want justice", posed questions.

The members of the Left, the DMK, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Thackeray), Rashtriya Janata Dal were among those who raised slogans and demanded a discussion and a probe on the Adani Group.

Asked by Mr. Gandhi about the relationship between the two, the Congress MPs wearing the masks said, "We are together."

Mr. Tagore said, "He [Mr. Modi] does whatever I say and want... be it airport or anything else."

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
ENERGY DEPARTMENT
ADVERTISEMENT
ENG-FE_I-ELST-0657-2014/14701, dt. 07.12.2024
Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment to the post of **Director (Finance & Corporate Affairs)** in GRIDCO Limited, a PSU functioning under Energy Department, Government of Odisha. Last date of receipt of application is **10.01.2025.** For further details please visit **https://energy.odisha.gov.in and https://gridco.co.in .**
CAD-1856 OIPR-04056/11/0008/2425

AAP announces second list, Sisodia moved to Jangpura

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party announced its second list of 20 candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly election on Monday. It dropped 18 sitting MLAs, and shifted two leaders, including former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, to other seats.

Mr. Sisodia was replaced by the newly inducted Avadh Ojha – a civil services educator – in Patparganj constituency, and will now contest from Jangpura.

Similarly, Deputy Speaker Rakhi Birla, who made way for Rakesh Jatav Dharamrakshak in Mangolpuri, will fight from Madipur, where sitting MLA Girish Soni was dropped.

AAP's Delhi convener Gopal Rai, at a press conference, said the list reflects a focus on grassroots activism and public feedback.

Mr. Rai stated that most of the new candidates are currently councillors who had actively worked in these constituencies.

Narela MLA Sharad Kumar Chauhan was replaced by Dinesh Bharadwaj, a councillor in the seat, while Timarpur MLA and the party's chief whip in the Assembly, Dilip K. Pandey, was replaced by Surendra Pal Singh Bittu, a former two-time MLA who switched over from the BJP.

Mr. Pandey had in a post on X last week announced a break from electoral politics.

Other notable names include Parvesh Ratan who will contest from Patel Nagar after the seat fell vacant when former AAP Minister Raaj Kumar Anand switched over to the BJP.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA - DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN, AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ
Mail Id :- cebmsbb2019@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 04 /24-25 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1.	Name of Work	A. Renovation of Black Topping Service Road of Haladia Right Main Distributary (HRMD) from RD2290m to RD 7316m and Jambhirapal Minor from RD 00m to RD 634m along with Grade-I Metaling of Service Road of Jambhirapal Minor from RD 645m to RD 1520m and Andhari S/M from RD 00m to RD 710m. B. Renovation of Jambhirapal Minor from RD 00m to RD 4510m, Andhari Sub-Minor from RD 00m to RD 710m and Kathsirsi Sub-Minor from RD 00m to RD 1390m along with Strengthening of the canal bank for the year 2024-25. C. Strengthening of the Bank in the vulnerable Zone of Filling Section of Haladia Right Main Distributary (HRMD) from RD 00m to RD 7316m including Structural Works along with Lining Repair Work.
2.	Estimated Cost	A. Rs.519.75 Lakh ; B. Rs.691.76 Lakh ; C. Rs.696.09 Lakh
3.	Bid Security / EMD	A. Rs.5,19,800/- ; B. Rs.6,91,800/- ; C. Rs.6,96,100/-
4.	Period of Completion	For S.I. No. A,B & C - 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
5.	Class of Contractor	For S.I. No. A - "A" Class, For Sl. No. B & C. -"A" Class and "Special"Class.
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	12.12.2024 at 10.00 AM
7.	Last date / time for receipt of bid in the portal	02.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM
8.	Date of Opening of bid	03.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
9.	Name & Address of the O.I.T.	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "https://tendersodisha.gov.in".
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager,
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.
A-688 : OIPR-32429/11/0004/2425

WATCO
OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan,
H.B.Colony, Satyanagar, Bhubaneswar-751007, Odisha, India
Telefax: - +91-674-2571444; E-mail – mdwatcoodisha@gmail.com .
INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) - Bid Identification No. WATCO(W)-17/2024-25, Dtd.07.12.2024
WATCO No.8003 / Date: 07.12.2024
1. Name of the work :- Improvement Distribution system including Installation of Isolation of Valve for provision of Drink from Tap & 24 x 7 Water Supply to Ward No.01,02,03,21 & 22 of Jemadei & its adjoining areas of Khordha Town.
2. Raw Water Pumping Mains (2 Nos. 800mm dia MS Pipe) from Kuakhai Head works to Palasuni Water Treatment Plant.
3. Upgradation of 6 MLD WTP, Jagatpur to 9 MLD WTP for North Cuttack under CMC area, Cuttack.
4. Construction of 42 MLD Water Treatment Plant and Intake well with ancillary structures for Augmentation of Water Supply to puri Municipality under AMRUT 2.0 SWAP-III.
2. Estimated cost :- (1) Rs.146.44 Lakh (2) Rs.675.28 Lakh (3) Rs.243.99 lakh (4) Rs.6967.32 lakh
3. Period of completion :- 03 (Three), 18 (Eighteen), 18 (Eighteen), 24 (Twenty-Four) Months.
4. Date & time of availability of bid document :- From 11.00 AM of Dt.16.12.2024 to 5.00 PM of 30.12.2024 in the portal.
5. Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal :- 5.00 PM of 30.12.2024
6. Date & time of opening of technical bids :- 12.30 PM of 31.12.2024
7. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid :- MD, WATCO, Telefax:- 0674-2391444. E-Mail : mdwatcoodisha@gmail.com
8. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.
Further details can be seen from the web site www.tendersodisha.gov.in
Managing Director, WATCO
C :1212 OIPR-13194/11/0027/2425

INBRIEF

Hindutva is a 'disease' that has afflicted millions: Iltija Mufti

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) leader Iltija Mufti on Monday said Hindutva was a "disease", triggering sharp reactions from right wing parties in Jammu. Posting an undated video of a school where children are apparently beaten up and asked to chant Jai Shri Ram on X, Ms. Mufti said, "Ram, the deity, must hang his head in shame and watch helplessly as minor Muslim boys are whacked with chappals only because they refuse to chant his name. Hindutva is a disease that has afflicted millions of Indians and sullied a God's name." Ms. Mufti's post has evoked sharp criticism from Hindu groups.

Crude bomb explosion kills three in Murshidabad district

Three people died after crude bombs exploded inside a house in the Khairtala area of Sagarpara in Murshidabad district of West Bengal. The explosion occurred on Sunday night in the house of Mamun Mollah. According to reports, crude bombs were being assembled in the house when the explosion occurred, bringing the roof of the house down. There was a deployment of a large police contingent near the site of the explosion. Murshidabad is a hot spot of political violence and there have been several deaths due to crude bomb explosions over the past few years.

Soldier killed in mine blast in Jammu's Poonch

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A soldier was killed in a mine blast during patrolling along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir on Monday.

An Army spokesperson said Havaldar V. Subbaiah Varikunta of the 25 Rashtriya Rifles was part of an area domination patrol in Thanedar Tekri when he accidently stepped on the mine, resulting in the blast.

The Army expressed its "deepest condolences to the bereaved family. We stand steadfastly with them in this hour of grief".

IED defused

An improvised explosive device was defused in Baramulla district's Pattan.

A joint patrolling party of the police and Army found a suspicious object by the roadside on the highway at Palhallan in the Pattan area of Baramulla district. A bomb disposal squad was rushed to the spot and the object taken to an isolated place. The squad destroyed the object in a controlled explosion, the officials said.

(With PTI inputs)

One lakh talented youth will be urged to join politics: Modi

PM says 2,000 selected youth will attend Young Leaders' Dialogue in person and crores will join the event with the help of technology

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said efforts were being made to bring youth into politics because it could not be left to those who only believed in dynastic politics and considered it a family property.

Virtually addressing an event organised by the Ramakrishna Math at Lekhamba village near Sanand town in Gujarat, the Prime Minister said a Young Leaders' Dialogue would be organised in Delhi on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda to "make a new beginning" towards this aim.

In his address, Mr. Modi said spiritual leader Swami Vivekananda, the founder of Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission, was of the opinion that participation of youth would be crucial for the development of the nation.

> It is needed that our youngsters lead our country in politics too because we cannot leave it to those who believe only in dynastic politics
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minster

"Along with technology and other sectors, it is needed that our youngsters lead our country in politics too because we cannot leave it to those who believe only in dynastic politics. We cannot hand over politics to those who consider politics as their family's property" the Prime Minister said.

"That is why we are going to make a new beginning. On the occasion of Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary, we are organising Young Leaders' Dialogue in Delhi. While 2,000 selected youth will remain present in person, crores of youth will join the event with the help of technology," Mr. Modi said. At the event, youth will discuss India's resolve to turn the country into a developed one, he said, adding that a road map will be prepared on how youth participation in politics can be increased.

"It is our resolve to bring nearly one lakh talented and energetic youth into politics. These youngsters will become the country's future and the new face of India's politics. Our country is marching ahead in the direction of realising the dreams of Swami Vivekananda," the Prime Minister said.

Andaman police seek clues from Starlink over meth seizure

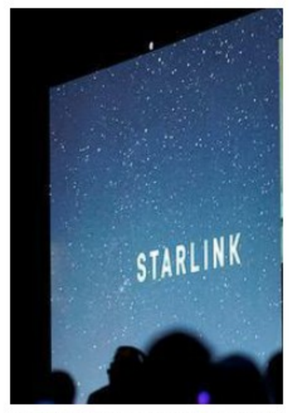
Reuters
BENGALURU

The Andaman police have sent a legal notice to Starlink, a company owned by Elon Musk that offers satellite broadband services, seeking details of who purchased its Internet device that helped in sea navigation of smugglers who were caught with $4.2 billion worth of meth in the biggest such Indian seizure.

Two people with direct knowledge of the notice said Starlink had been asked for the purchaser's name and payment method, registration details and where the Internet device was used when smugglers travelled in international waters from Myanmar to India.

The police seized more than 6,000 kg of meth in late November on a Myanmar boat carrying sacks of the suspected contraband, and found that the Starlink Mini Internet device had been used.

Starlink and the Andaman police did not respond to a request for comment. The police estimated that the seized meth had a retail market value of 360 billion rupees.



The police have sought to know who purchased the Internet device used by the smugglers.

The incident has set off alarm bells as it is the first time Starlink's device has been used to navigate and reach Indian waters in a major drug haul.

The investigation comes just as the Musk-owned company is trying to address any potential security concerns before it is given a green light to launch its satellite broadband services in India.

Starlink recently won a lobbying battle after a bitter face-off with billionaire Mukesh Ambani over how exactly New Delhi should allocate satellite spectrum to companies.

Lawyers' body demands action against Allahabad HC judge for speech at VHP event

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

The All India Lawyers Union on Monday wrote to the President and the Chief Justice of India seeking action against an Allahabad High Court judge, Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav, for his speech at a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) event. The union said the speech "amounted to hate speech against the Muslim minority".

Stressing the need for a Uniform Civil Code (UCC), Justice Yadav, in his speech on Sunday, said India would run as per the wishes of the majority community. He had also praised the work of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and said there was "no excuse" for practices such as polygamy, triple talaq or Halala.

"The widely reported speech of Justice Shekhar Yadav, sitting judge of Allahabad HC from the platform of VHP is against the Constitution, its ethos and a direct affront to its basic structure - secularism and independence of judiciary. It tantamounts to sabotaging of independence of judiciary from within," the letter from the AILU read.

Justice Shekhar Kumar Yadav

It said the tone and tenor of the speech amounted to hate speech against the Muslim minority in the name of Hindu religion.

"His imputations, allegations and expressions against the Muslim minority are of vicious, vitriolic and venomous nature; most unbecoming of a sitting judge of a constitutional court – violation of constitutional oath of office of a judge of the HC," the AILU said, adding that democracy was neither majoritarianism nor religious majoritarianism, and that his expression and concept of democracy was that of a "Hinduthwa Rashtra".

Brinda Karat, CPI(M) Polit Bureau member, in a letter to the CJI, said the speech was a violation of the oath of the Constitution. She demanded action against him. "This speech is a hate speech. This speech is an assault on the Constitution. This speech is an affront to the collective conscience of a secular and democratic country. That it should have been made by a justice of the Allahabad High Court is also an assault on the processes of justice," Ms. Karat said.

Senior citizens' free treatment scheme gets 25 lakh members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

As many as 25 lakh persons have enrolled so far for the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card senior citizens aged 70 and above which was launched on October 29.

This followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to include all senior citizens in this age category.

Since the launch, 22,000 senior citizens had utilised more than ₹40 crore for treatment, a press release issued by the Union Health Ministry said on Monday.

The beneficiaries have undergone procedures such as coronary angioplasty, hip replacement, gallbladder removal, cataract surgery, prostate resection, and haemodialysis, and treatment for stroke and enteric fever and other febrile illnesses.

The AVVC provides health cover of ₹5 lakh free, irrespective of socio-economic status.

Eligible senior citizens belonging to families already covered under the AB PM-JAY get an additional top-up cover of up to ₹5 lakh a year.

The card covers treatment for nearly 2,000 medical procedures and includes all pre-existing diseases from the first day, without any waiting period.

Eligible senior citizens can register through multiple channels. They can visit the nearest empanelled hospital for registration.

For self-registration, download the Ayushman app (from Google Play) or visit www.beneficiary.nha.gov.in.

To know more about the AVVC, citizens can also call on 14555 (toll-free) or leave a missed call on 1800110770.

UGC finalises draft guidelines promoting access to 'life-long' learning and education

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has finalised the 'Draft Guidelines for Implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Higher Education' to provide access to education and to enable the concept of life-long education. RPL is defined in the guidelines as a formal mechanism used to evaluate a person's existing knowledge, skills, and experience gained through formal, non-formal, or informal learning.

UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar said the guidelines are to address the challenges faced by India's large informal workforce, which requires formal education and career progression opportunities.

He said RPL is integral to the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020. "RPL allows individuals to gain formal recognition for skills and competencies acquired through informal, non-formal, or experiential learning. Through RPL, such individuals can access higher education, earn formal qualifications, and improve their employability," he said.

M. Jagadesh Kumar

The National Credit Framework (NCrF) supports RPL by facilitating the creditisation of all learning forms –academic, vocational, and experiential, he said.

"To enable individuals to convert their skills into qualifications, RPL helps bridge the gap between real-world experience and formal education and enhance career prospects. RPL contributes to economic growth, social inclusion, and a more skilled workforce," Mr. Kumar said.

The guidelines emphasise robust governance, quality assurance, and collaboration among policymakers, educational institutions, employers, and assessment bodies to ensure fairness, consistency, and inclusivity while implementing RPL.

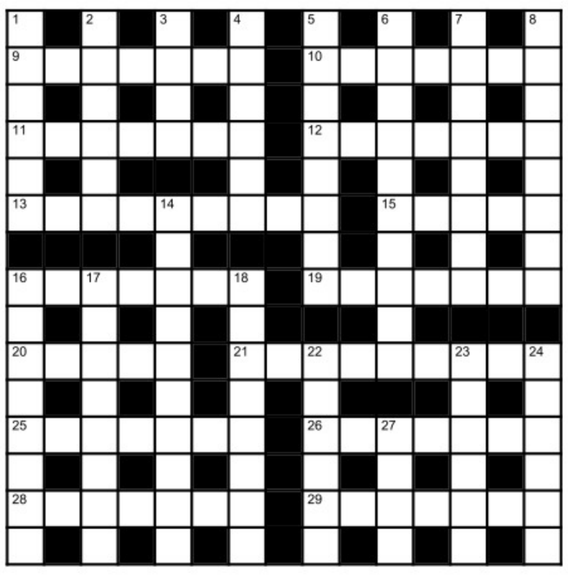
The objectives of RPL guidelines include enabling individuals who have acquired competencies through non-formal and informal learning methods to access higher education programmes.

TH CROSSWORD + 14352

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 American city in the past (7)
10 Ruffian holds aliens, releases (4,3)
11 Root of a plant embryo said to be progressive (7)
12 Apathy for Maoist's involvement in blast (7)
13 Napoleon's skeleton - keeping away from each other (9)
15 Left in a primitive accommodation to give birth (5)
16 Envoy to a lesser degree (7)
19 Hector and you close to the capital (7)
20 Fight to catch river fish (5)
21 Elation when you're on it (5,4)
25 Herb is in a shortage (7)
26 Play a role - is it a part of your face? (7)
28 Bengali became European (7)
29 Arden is perhaps a swimmer (7)

Down

1 Extremely symbolic horse beetle (6)
2 Called POTUS to protect democrats (6)
3 Clatter raising some powdery stuff (4)
4 Question about you - finally he is affected (6)
5 Fat novice stops by (8)
6 Impending danger gets slum doctor worried (5,5)
7 "Died in building lobby" - one wrote a song (3,5)
8 Frank readies regular flight (8)
14 Experts' treatise on the addition of a sound or syllable at the beginning of a word (10)
16 Danube winding around quietly in the capital (8)
17 It's tiny parking, clear it somehow (8)
18 Stress involving mind - it's regular tragedy (8)
22 Songs on South American port (6)
23 Famous and active - essentially nice at the top and bottom (6)
24 Cricket team will stay in the hotel eventually (6)
27 Capital is half-half, that's uncommon (4)

SUDOKU

	6		8	5			1	
8		2						
	1							8
		3	4				8	9
		8	3		6	7		
6	2				9	3		
4							5	
						2		3
	3			6	5		7	

No.SS6365 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	D	P	P	T			D	
A	R	O	M	A	R	E	A	L	T	I	E	S
N		G	R	O	N		A	P		U
O	S	M	O	S	I	S	G	O	B	L	E	T	S
R		A	E	P			L	N		U
A	R	T	I	C	L	E	P	L	E	A	D	E	R
K	I			C	A		A			P
	C	O	M	E	T	H	R	O	U	G	H	
A			A	O	L			A	D
B	O	U	L	D	E	R	I	N	C	E	N	S	E
A	N	E			A	A	D	F
S	N	I	P	I	N	G	M	A	T	I	S	S	E
H	S	R	R	E	H	O	C
D	O	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	D	M	I	T
	N	M	T	Y	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	5	1	9	4	6	3	8	2
6	9	3	1	2	8	4	7	5
8	2	4	7	5	3	9	1	6
5	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	4
9	3	8	4	1	2	5	6	7
4	6	7	8	9	5	2	3	1
1	4	6	2	3	9	7	5	8
3	8	5	6	7	4	1	2	9
2	7	9	5	8	1	6	4	3

FAITH

Sacred Thiruchengode

In the sacred kshetra Thiruchengode, Lord Siva is called Madhorubagan – the One who has His Consort as one half of His body. The Thiruchengode hill resembles a snake, and is therefore called Nagachala, Nagagiri and Sarpagiri, said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse. Once a quarrel broke out between Vayu and Adi Sesha, the serpent, about who was the stronger of the two of them. They decided to test their strength. The challenge was that Adi Sesha should hold the Meru mountain tightly. Vayu was to try to break his grasp. Vayu, the wind god, blew so hard that a chunk of the mountain broke and was carried off by the wind. The place where this broken piece landed was Thiruchengode. Adi Sesha had been holding on to the mountain in a tight grip, and when a piece of the mountain broke, the serpent's mouth was injured, and his mouth began to bleed. So the broken piece was red in colour because of Adi Sesha's blood.

When Thirugnanasambandar visited Thiruchengode, some of the devotees of Lord Siva were afflicted by a fever. He sang the Thiruneelakanta Padhigam, and the devotees were cured of their illness. The Madhorubagan vigraha is five feet in height. It is white. Ardhanareeswara is believed to be the oldest form of Lord Siva. Manickavachagar describes Ardhanareeswara. The right side represents Siva. On this side, Ardhanareeswara is seen with a tiger skin draping Him. In His ears are kundalas that are worn by men. In His hand is a trident, and on His forehead one sees sacred ash. On the left side is the Goddess Uma. Siva giving darshan as Ardhanareeswara, and not as a linga, is one of the unique features of the Thiruchengode temple.

INBRIEF

Tata Motors to raise prices of passenger vehicles by up to 3%

Tata Motors has announced that it will increase prices of its passenger vehicles, including those of electric vehicles (EVs), by up to 3%. "Effective January 2025, the price increase will vary depending on the model and variant, and is being taken to partially offset the rise in input costs and inflation," the auto major said in a statement. The move follows the decision of almost all automakers to raise prices of their vehicles to pass on the burden of increased cost of materials and logistics to buyers.

Biocon gets U.S. FDA report after inspection of API facility

Biocon on Monday said it had received an establishment inspection report (EIR) with voluntary action indicated (VAI) status from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), for its active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) facility (site 2) located at the special economic zone plot no. 2,3,4 and 5 on Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The action was based on a surveillance inspection conducted by the agency between September 23 and 27, the biopharmaceutical company said.

International Gemmological Institute IPO to open on Dec. 13

The International Gemmological Institute (India) (IGI) will open bids for its ₹4,225-crore initial public offering (IPO) between December 13 and 17. The IPO will consist of a fresh issue of ₹1,475 crore and a ₹2,750-crore offer for sale. The promoters intend to use most of the proceeds of the offer to acquire the Belgium and Netherlands businesses of the group, according to the company's prospectus. The offer for sale is also expected to dilute 23.5% of their stake in the business. After the acquisition, the promoter will hold just IGI India, which in turn will have 100% stake in IGI Netherlands and Belgium in addition to IGI Turkey which it already holds.

AI to add 100 Airbus planes

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India (AI) confirmed it placed an order to buy 100 more Airbus aircraft, including 10 widebody A350 and 90 narrow-body A320 family of aircraft.AI didn't disclose the delivery timeline. The aircraft are in addition to orders for 470 aircraft AI placed with Airbus and Boeing last year.

Development economist Natraj passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

V.K. Natraj

Prof. V.K. Natraj (85), a retired professor and former director of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Mysore and former director, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai, passed away at a hospital here on Monday after a brief illness.

He is survived by two daughters.

A leading academician specialising in development economics, Prof. Natraj's career spanned over three decades at the University of Mysore. He was also its registrar before his appointment as the director of MIDS, Chennai where he served from 2000 to 2005.

After studies at the University of Mysore, Prof. Natraj obtained his masters from Oxford and joined the IDS in Mysuru in 1972, and was a professor of development studies.

His areas of interest spanned panchayati raj institutions and decentralisation. He was a visiting fellow at the IDS, University of Sussex and headed a research study initiated by it into panchayats in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and West Bengal. He was a member of the Expert Committee on Panchayat Raj, Government of Karnataka in 1996 and authored many papers on decentralisation.

As a social activist, he encouraged dialogue between farmers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu on the Cauvery river issue.

His close associates said the body will be placed at his residence at Jayalakshmipuram till December 10 morning to enable relatives, friends and well-wishers to pay their respects. His body will be donated to JSS Hospital.

Retail auto sales rise 11% in Nov. but PVs, CVs lag: FADA

Rural demand offered limited support, particularly in the 2W segment, but failed to provide a substantial lift for PV and CV categories, says auto dealer association FADA's president

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Automobile retail sales in November increased by 11.21% to 32,08,719 units compared with 28,85,317 units in November 2023.

While two-wheelers (2W), three-wheelers (3W) and tractors posted year-on-year (yoy) sales growth of 15.8%, 4.23%, and 29.88% respectively, passenger vehicles (PV) and commercial vehicles (CV) logged declines of 13.72% and 6.08%, as per Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA) data.

Month-on-month comparison also reflected uneven results with 2W retail sales growing 26.67% while PVs and CVs shrank 33.37% and 15.85%, respectively.

Slippery track: Neither rural demand nor the marriage season could lift the sales of passenger vehicles, says FADA. PTI

"The late timing of *Diwali* in October led to festive registrations spilling over into November, slightly boosting numbers but not sufficiently offsetting weaker marriage-season demand," it said.

"Rural demand offered limited support, particularly in the 2W segment, but failed to provide a substantial lift for PV and CV categories," it added.

While November was expected to build on its prior momentum, particularly due to the marriage season, dealer feedback suggests this segment underperformed overall expectations," said C. S. Vigneshwar, president, FADA.

PV dealers cited weak market sentiment, limited product variety and insufficient new products, compounded by the shift of festive demand into October, the FADA chief said.

CV sales was hit by restricted product choice and limited financial support.

Lumina Datamatics to buy TNQ Tech

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Lumina Datamatics Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Datamatics Global Services Ltd., will acquire 100% stake in TNQ Tech Pvt. Ltd., for cash consideration in two tranches.

Lumina Datamatics will be signing the share purchase, shareholders' and other agreements to acquire shares from existing shareholders. The transaction is expected to be completed by July 2026.

Post acquisition, TNQ will become a step-down subsidiary of Datamatics Global Services, the latter said in a regulatory filing.

In the first tranche, Lumina will acquire 80% stake for ₹336 crore and the balance shares over a period of 19 months based on EBITDA multiple applied to the audited financials of FY26 and other parameters, it said.

TNQTech, a Chennai-based digital publishing technology and services company, has presence in India, Europe and North America. The firm posted a turnover of ₹289 crore for the October 2023-September 2024 period.

"This acquisition will establish us among dominant service providers in the world of digital content," Datamatics said.

PM launches LIC's 'Bima Sakhi Yojana'

Press Trust of India
PANIPAT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' of LIC here under which two lakh woman insurance agents will be appointed over the next three years.

'Bima Sakhi Yojana', an initiative of State-owned LIC, is designed to empower women aged 18-70 years who are Class X pass.

The women agents will receive specialised training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

Under the scheme, the woman agents will also get a stipend of ₹7,000 per month for the first year, ₹6,000 per month in the second year and ₹5,000 per month in the third year. Bima Sakhis will also get the benefit of commission.

The plan is to appoint two lakh Bima Sakhi over a period of three years.

Narendra Modi

World needs supply chains strong enough to weather any crisis: PM

Lalatendu Mishra
JAIPUR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the world needs a system that could function "unhindered and uninterrupted even during the biggest crisis." He said this in the context of continuing challenges pertaining to the global supply and value chain.

"It is imperative to have a large manufacturing base in India, which is not only necessary for India, but also for the world economy," the PM said, addressing delegates at the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit in Jaipur.

"Understanding this responsibility, India has taken a pledge for self-reliance in manufacturing," he said.

"India is laying emphasis on low-cost manufacturing under the 'Make in India' programme, and its petroleum products, medicines and vaccines, electronic goods, and record manufacturing have benefited the world," the PM emphasised.

Mr. Modi pointed to the increase in upgrades in electronics, specialty steel, automobiles and auto components, solar PVs and pharmaceuticals among the sectors avidly seeking support from the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme.

"The PLI scheme has led to an investment of about ₹1.25 lakh crore. Products worth about ₹11 lakh crore had been made and exports have increased by ₹4 lakh crore," the Prime Minister said.

(This writer is in Jaipur at the invitation of the Rajasthan Government)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,508	-0.25
US Dollar	84.86	-0.23
Gold	78,960	-0.24
Brent oil	72.29	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2495.85	-10.55
Adani Ports	1266.85	7.80
Apollo Hosp	7193.85	-39.45
Asian Paints	2391.85	-37.85
Axis Bank	1163.25	-21.30
Bajaj Auto	9077.45	-22.45
Bajaj Finserv	1637.05	1.85
Bajaj Finance	6868.35	18.05
Bharat Elec	314.60	0.85
Bharti Airtel	1602.55	4.70
BPCL	303.45	3.10
Britannia Ind	4793.00	-77.85
Cipla	1469.00	-8.40
Coal India	414.00	-3.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1255.15	1.45
Eicher Motors	4842.10	-34.95
Grasim Ind	2681.40	-20.50
HCL Tech	1909.90	-12.80
HDFC Bank	1870.00	14.15
HDFC Life	641.80	5.30
Hero MotoCorp	4595.95	-33.65
Hindalco	670.90	0.75
Hind Unilever	2400.75	-83.05
ICICI Bank	1322.30	-6.45
IndusInd Bank	982.60	-7.75
Infosys	1923.65	1.25
ITC	464.95	-6.20
JSW Steel	1011.90	8.10
Kotak Bank	1786.25	9.30
L&T	3947.30	80.60
M&M	3051.25	-21.75
Maruti Suzuki	11279.80	-38.15
NestleIndia	2228.85	-38.95
NTPC	369.85	0.35
ONGC	258.90	-1.15
PowerGrid Corp	329.10	0.20
Reliance Ind	1295.15	-16.40
SBI Life	1469.30	20.75
State Bank	858.05	-5.60
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3106.90	-19.45
Sun Pharma	1806.65	1.80
TataConsumerProduct	933.95	-40.50
Tata Motors	798.75	-18.05
Tata Steel	149.88	1.59
TCS	4452.15	6.65
Tech Mahindra	1777.85	-4.95
Titan	3468.20	-1.90
Trent Ltd.	6949.70	-50.25
UltraTech Cement	11814.80	-33.70
Wipro	303.75	6.40

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on December 09

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.53	84.85
Euro	89.44	89.78
British Pound	108.01	108.43
Japanese Yen (100)	56.19	56.41
Chinese Yuan	11.63	11.68
Swiss Franc	96.17	96.55
Singapore Dollar	63.13	63.38
Canadian Dollar	59.80	60.03
Malaysian Ringitt	19.09	19.18
Australian Dollar	54.50	54.71

Source:Indian Bank

Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited
D.No.56-2-11, Phase 3rd, MARKFED Lay at No.49/84, APIIC Colony Road, Auto Nagar, Vijayawada – 520007. E. mail :micro.apmarkfed@gmail.com - webpage https://apmarkfed.ap.gov.in/

SHORT RE-eTENDER NOTIFICATION

AP MARKFED invites short Re-eTender bids from experienced, reputed and financially sound manufacturers for supply of **(1)** PP Chemicals, Weedicides & Bio-Pesticides, **(2)** Micronutrient products and **(3)** supply/transportation of Gypsum both bulk & bagged to all the 26-districts of Andhra Pradesh. Both technical and financial quotations / bids should be submitted online only at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**

For full details of Short e-Tender Notification and respective Tender Schedules (RFPs) are available **w.e.f. 11.12.2024** on **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **w.e.f. 10.12.2024** on MARKFED's website: **https://apmarkfed.ap.gov.in/**

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru-560 064.

No. BBMP/EE/YNK-D/KPPP/14/2024-25 Date: 09.12.2024

INVITATION TO TENDERS (IFT)
(Two Cover Tender) (Short Term Tender Notification)
Through GOK KPP Portal only
website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1.	Resurfacing of 1st and 3rd Main and surrounding areas in Maruthinagara Ward No.01 of Yelahanka Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 150.00, EMD in Lakhs: 2.25.**
2.	Resurfacing of 1st and 2nd Main and surrounding areas of Surabhi Layout in Ward No.01 of Yelahanka Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 110.00, EMD in Lakhs: 2.00.**
3.	Resurfacing of Main Roads and Cross Roads at 4th Phase Shirke Apartment in Ward No.02 of Yelahanka Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 140.00, EMD in Lakhs: 2.10.**
4.	Resurfacing of Roads and improvements to Drains at Attur, Attur Layout and Doddabettahalli surrounding areas in Ward No.03 of Yelahanka Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 250.00, EMD in Lakhs: 3.75.**
5.	Resurfacing of Road in A Sector B Sector and Judicial Layout and surrounding areas in Ward No.04 of Yelahanka Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 250.00, EMD in Lakhs: 3.75.**
6.	Providing Tubular Poles ABC Control Lines and Powers saving SCR based timer switch, along with energy efficient lights in Yelahanka constituency. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 100.00, EMD in Lakhs: 2.00.**
7.	Construction of BBMP Revenue Office Building in Ward No.02. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 250.00, EMD in Lakhs: 3.75.**
8.	Construction of Ward Office Building at Doddabettahalli Village in Ward No.03 of Yelahanka new Town Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 250.00, EMD in Lakhs: 3.75.**
9.	Construction of Badminton Court at Yelahanka 5th Phase in Ward No.2 of Yelahanka Sub division. **Est. Cost in Lakhs: 350.00, EMD in Lakhs: 5.25.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of Pre bid meeting on **16.12.2024 at 4:00 p.m. (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through Kpp Portal on or **before 4:00 p.m. on 20.12.2024. (3)** Date of Opening of Technical bids on **21.12.2024 after 4:00 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA

Request for proposals are invited through e-procurement platform for procurement and supply of 1.Utensils 2. Electronics to all the 352 types - III and 210 type - IV KGBVs in the State.

RFB downloading starts from : **10-12-2024 @ 05.00 PM**
Last date for receipt for of RFB : **31-12-2024 @ 05.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact: **0866-2428599.**

Sd/- B.Srinivasa Rao, I.A.S.,
State Project Director,
Samagra Shiksha, Andhra Pradesh

DIPR 3376PP/CL, Dt.09-12-2024

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION BEAWAR

NIB NO. :-PWD2425A3077-PWD2425A3079
Notice Inviting Bid NO. 23/2024-25

Bids for 03 No. Works are invited from interested bidders **upto 2.00 PM 13 December 2024.** Other particular of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the State, and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 275.84 Lacs.**

S No.	NIB NO	UBIN NO	Amount (Lac)
1	PWD2425A3077	PWD2425WSOB11331	216.28
2	PWD2425A3078	PWD2425WSOB11332	24.16
3	PWD2425A3079	PWD2425WSOB11333	35.40

(V.S. Shekhawat)
Executive Engineer
PWD, Division Beawar

DIPR/C/12321/2024

कार्यालय नगर विकास न्यास, भरतपुर

क्रमांक :- लेखा/ा/2024-25/राजकाज 12157618 दिनांक :- 02/12/2024

ऑनलाईन निविदा सूचना सं0 22/2024-25

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से नगर विकास न्यास भरतपुर में उपयुक्त श्रेणी एवं विभिन्न विभागों में ए, एए श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदकों/फर्मो से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से कुल 09 कार्यो हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

उक्त कार्यो का विस्तृत विवरण, निविदा शर्ते, अनुमानित लागत राशि, निविदा बेचने, प्राप्त करने एवं खोलने की दिनांक आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitbharatpur** एवं **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** portal पर देखा जा सकता है।

निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार का संशोधन **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** एवं **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** portal का अवलोकन करें।

UBN No. : WAQ2425WSOB00201 To 208, WAQ2425WLOB00209

राज.संवाद/सी/24/8837 अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, नगर विकास न्यास, भरतपुर

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (South)
7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bengaluru-560 009.

IFT No.:BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/8859/2024-25 Dt: 09.12.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER - CALL-4
(Through KPP portal only)

BWSSB, invites tenders in two cover tender system from eligible contractors for the work **of Providing, laying 100/150 mm dia DI pipeline to replace 75/100mm dia corroded CI water pipeline at Cheluvadipalya DMA and surrounding area Coming under JJR S/s of AEE SW2 Sub-Division.**

Amount put to tender: **Rs.289.42 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs.4.34 Lakhs.**

Last date and time for submission of tender document is: **24-12-2024 upto 17:00 hours.** Tender will be opened on **26-12-2024 after 16:00 hours.** The details regarding the tender and participation in the kpp portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the signed office during working hours.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (South).

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO3691/24-25

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK

क्रमांकः- कैशियर/24–25/डी– 3431-40 दिनांक : 2/12/24

Notice Inviting Bid
09/2024-25

Bids for **Nit No 09/2024-25, 02 Nos. Road Work** are invited from interested bidders upto **Date 23.12.2024, 06.00 P.M.** Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. and - departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is **Rs. 5584.00 Lacs**
NIB code PWD2425A3101
PWD2425WLOB11390
PWD2425WLOB11391
DIPR/C/12391/2024

(Premraj Meena)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PWD, Zone Tonk

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TELEMATICS
Electronics City Phase - I, Hosur Road, Bengaluru - 560 100

10.12.2024

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) invites expression of interest (EOI) from reputed Indian IPR Law practising agencies for empanelment of Intellectual Property (IP) firms for handling all forms of IP applications. Interested parties may download the EOI details from the website **www.cdot.in** and submit their proposals in sealed covers as per the deadline mentioned in the EOI.

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Construction of new Cement Concrete approach road to a width of 16 meters for additional approach to both the Container Terminals of 8th& 9th Berth inside Green Gate in VOC Port.	2,80,94,276/-	5,61,890/-	24.12.2024
2.	Special measures to replace the masonry overhead tanks with the PVC tanks at Type IV Quarters in V.O.C. Port	18,13,857/-	36,277/-	26.12.2024
3.	Attending to Repair Works for Water Supply and Sanitation Lines in Residential and Non Residential Areas for Period of Two years in VOC Port Authority	68,29,050/-	1,36,581/-	26.12.2024
4.	Replacing the Existing 350 mm dia (1 MGD & 3 MGD) Water Supply line with Ductile Iron pipe from Marine Police Station to beach water tank and oyster water tank in V.O.C Port	4,39,61,845/-	8,79,237/-	02.01.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**
ii) **https://www.vocport.gov.in**

Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER
VOCPA

ILLINOIS

Indian-Americans protest against attacks on Bangladesh Hindus

PTI

Indian-Americans from Chicago and its suburbs held a protest meeting against recent attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh, urging the U.S. to step in for their protection. In a message to the meeting at a in a Chicago suburb, Congressman Shri Thanedar said he is raising the issue with the U.S. State Department. PTI

SEOUL

South Korea imposes travel ban on President Yoon over martial law

AFP

South Korea's Justice Ministry on Monday imposed an overseas travel ban on President Yoon Suk Yeol as authorities investigate allegations of rebellion and other charges in connection with his short-lived declaration of martial law last week. Mr. Yoon had avoided an opposition-led bid to impeach him on Saturday. AP

VIENNA

Bulgaria, Romania to become full members of Schengen travel zone

AP

Austria is dropping its veto on Romania and Bulgaria becoming full members of Europe's Schengen free-travel area, its interior ministry said, paving the way for EU Interior Ministers to approve the move at a meeting on Thursday. Romania and Bulgaria, both EU and NATO members, partly joined Schengen in March. REUTERS

MELBOURNE

Nauru to give Australia veto over a range of pacts with other nations

AP

Australia announced a multimillion-dollar agreement with Nauru on Monday that gives Australia a veto right over a range of pacts the tiny Pacific atoll might want to enter with third countries including China. Australia offered $89 million over five years to the remote nation under the treaty to be implemented next year. AP

U.K. mulls removal of ban on HTS militants

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The U.K. could lift a ban on the militant group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), which led the overthrow of the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. The group had been proscribed in 2017 for its links with al-Qaeda.

U.K. Cabinet Office Minister Pat McFadden told *BBC Radio4* that the government would make a "relatively swift decision" about lifting the ban, if the situation in Syria stabilised. The HTS is also a designated terrorist organisation in the U.S.

"A lot will depend on whether the statements about the protection of minorities and citizens are backed up," Mr. McFadden said.

"It's a very fluid situation. No one is certain about what will happen," he added.

Mr. McFadden also told *Times Radio* that the U.K. "can consider" lifting the ban, if HTS ends up "taking over" Syria.

Earlier U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, had welcomed the overthrow of the "barbaric" Assad regime. "Our focus is now on ensuring a political solution prevails, and peace and stability is restored," Mr. Starmer said on Sunday while he was in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on an unrelated trip to the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Starmer called for the protection of civilians and minorities, and for aid to reach those in need.

The British wife of Mr. Assad, Asma al-Assad, had not requested to return to the U.K, according to Mr. McFadden.

Damascus limps back to normalcy after militants force Assad to flee

Militants mill about in the centre of the Syrian capital while heavy traffic returned to the streets and people ventured out after a curfew; however, most shops remain shut; Jolani meets Syrian PM, Vice-President to discuss transitional government

Reuters
DAMASCUS

Damascus stirred back to life on Monday at the start of a hopeful but uncertain era after militants seized the capital and President Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia, following 13 years of civil war and more than 50 years of his family's brutal rule.

Heavy traffic returned to the streets and people ventured out after a nighttime curfew, but most shops remained shut. Militants milled about in the centre.

The main militant commander Ahmed al-Sharaa, better known as Abu Mohammed al-Jolani, met overnight with Mr. Assad's Prime Minister Mohammed Jalali and Vice-President Faisal Mekdad to discuss arrangements for a transitional government, a source familiar with the discussions said.

Dire straits: Syrians were ruled by the Assad family for more than 50 years and ravaged by a civil war that has spanned 13 years. AFP

Al Jazeera television reported that the transitional authority would be headed by Mohamed Al-Bashir, who ran the administration in a small pocket of rebel-held territory before the 12-day lightning offensive that swept into Damascus.

Syria's banks would reopen on Tuesday and staff had been asked to return to offices, according to a Syrian central bank source and two commercial bankers. Syria's currency would continue to be used, they said.

Militants from the remote countryside milled about in the capital, clustering in the central Umayyad Square before Damascus's great eight-century mosque.

"We had a purpose and a goal and now we are done with it. We want the state and security forces to be in charge," said Firdous Omar, who said he had been battling the Assad government since 2011 and was now looking forward to laying down his weapon and returning to his job as a farmer in provincial Idlib.

The advance of a militia alliance spearheaded by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), a former al-Qaeda affiliate, was a turning point for West Asia.

Taiwan military on high alert as Chinese ships sail near island

Agence France-Presse
HSINCHU

Beijing's anticipated military drills are in response to Taiwan President Lai Ching-te's U.S. visits

Taiwan's military was on high alert on Monday after detecting Chinese warships near the island, Taipei said, as it prepared for likely drills by Beijing in response to President Lai Ching-te's U.S. visits.

The Taiwanese Defence Ministry said it also spotted Chinese coast guard vessels and that Beijing's People's Liberation Army (PLA) had restricted the airspace off the Chinese coast.

Intense speculation

There has been intense speculation about the possibility of China launching military exercises in response to Mr. Lai's trip to the Pacific last week which included stopovers in Hawaii and Guam.

"In response to these actions by the PLA, the MND has initiated combat readiness drills, factoring in enemy threats, weather conditions, and tactical positioning," the Ministry of National Defense in Taipei said. It added that military units were on "high" alert and those on outlying islands had "heightened their vigilance".

Son's illness prompts Haiti gang leader to go on a killing spree of 184 people

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Close to 200 people were killed in brutal weekend violence in Haiti's capital, the United Nations said on Monday, with reports that a gang boss orchestrated the slaughter of voodoo practitioners.

The killings were overseen by a "powerful gang leader" convinced that his son's illness was caused by followers of the religion, according to civil organisation the Committee for Peace and Development (CPD).

"He decided to cruelly punish all elderly people and voodoo practitioners who, in his imagination, would be capable of sending a bad spell on his son," a statement from the Haiti-based group said. "The gang's soldiers were responsible for identifying victims in their homes to take them to the chief's stronghold to be executed," it added.

Mounting toll: The latest killings bring the death toll from gang violence just this year in Haiti to a staggering 5,000 people. REUTERS

"These latest killings bring the death toll just this year in Haiti to a staggering 5,000 people," UN rights commissioner Volker Turk told reporters in Geneva.

The massacre took place in the capital's western coastal neighbourhood of Cite Soleil.

The CPD said that most of the victims of the violence waged on Friday and Saturday were over 60, but that some young people who tried to rescue others were also among the casualties.

Voodoo was brought to Haiti by African slaves. It was banned during French colonial rule and only recognised as an official religion in 2003.

Bangladesh ex-PM Hasina terms Yunus regime 'fascist'

Press Trust of India
DHAKA/KOLKATA

Bangladesh's deposed premier Sheikh Hasina has launched a fierce attack on the interim administration, accusing its Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus of running a "fascist regime" that allows terrorists and fundamentalists to act without restraint.

In a virtual address to a gathering of overseas Awami League supporters in London on Sunday, Ms. Hasina accused Mr. Yunus of being the "mastermind" behind the July-August turmoil that ousted her government and vowed to bring him and his allies to justice under Bangladeshi law.

Sheikh Hasina

She criticised Mr. Yunus and his interim government for their alleged persecution of religious minorities in Bangladesh.

"Since August 5, the attacks on minorities, places of worship of Hindus, Christians and Buddhists have been rampant. We condemn it. The Jamaat and terrorists are having a free run under the new regime," she said.

'Clemency to terrorists'

Ms. Hasina accused the Yunus government of providing clemency to terrorists and criminals, including those involved in arson and murders.

"The release of convicted criminals and terrorists, including those responsible for attacks on the Bangladesh Parliament and other atrocities, proves the complicity of this government," she alleged.

Sport

Kiran rewrites his 110m hurdles record

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Seventeen-year-old Kiran bettered his own National record in the under-18 men's 110m hurdles semifinals in the morning before cruising to the title in the evening in the National junior athletics championships at the Kalinga Stadium here on Monday.

Kiran erased his 13.52 mark set in the National youth championships in June by clocking 13.47 in the semifinals, almost jogging in the last five meters.

In the final, the Palakkad boy produced another dominant show. "The morning was pleasant. Later, my body became tight and the weather was humid in the evening. It might have affected my time in the final," said Kiran, whose time was better than that of the U-20 winner Sandeep Gond.

At a canter: Kiran won with ease. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Pooja, who narrowly missed a new National record due to a lower-back issue while attempting 1.85m in high jump overnight, showed his grit and achieved the mark in heptathlon.

Jay Kumar smashed Amoj Jacob's seven-year-old U-20 men's 400m meet record with a time of 46.29. The Delhi lad, who saw off Astik Pradhan's challenge despite the local favourite clocking his personal best (46.97), missed the National mark by 0.03 seconds.

The results (winners only):

Under-20: Men: 400m: Jay Kumar (Del) 46.29 (NMR, Old, 46.59, Amoj Jacob, 2017); **3000m:** Mohit Yadav (MP) 8:16.84; **110m hurdles:** Sandeep Gond (Mah) 14.02; **10000m race walk:** Amit Kumar (Cht) 42:18.13; **High jump:** Sagar Roy (WB) 2.04m; **Shot put:** Siddharth Chaudhary (Raj) 19.16m; **4x100m relay:** Odisha 41.10 (NMR, Old, 41.28, Tamil Nadu, 2019); **Women: 400m:** Dhesikha V. (TN) 55.03; **3000m:** Sonam Parmar (MP) 9:44.16; **100m hurdles:** Crystal Vadakel (Mah) 14.10; **4x100m relay:** Maharashtra 47.13 (NMR, old, 47.18, Kerala, 2019).

Under-18: Men: 400m: Gajendra Singh (Raj) 48.111; **110m hurdles:** Kiran K. (Ker) 13.64; **Long jump:** Shahnavaz Khan (UP) 7.72m; **Women: 400m:** Tahura Khatun (WB) 56.01; **100m hurdles:** Bhavana G. (TN) 14.42; **3000m race walk:** Shikha Yadav (UP) 14:13.20; **Long jump:** Thanusha K. (TN) 5.70m.

Under-16: Boys: 80m hurdles: Sanaga Thanush Teja (AP) 10.36 (NR, Old, 10.55, K. Shyam Sundar Sahi, 2023); **High jump:** Zubin Gohain (Asm) 1.76m; **Javelin:** Dhairya Bhanderi (Guj) 70.12m (NR, Old, 64.24m, Dhariya Bhanderi, 2024); **Girls: 80m hurdles:** Shourya Ambure (Mah) 11.55; **Javelin:** Muskan (Har) 46.87m (NR, Old, 40.01m, Shivani Patel, 2024).

Rutherford's hundred guides WI home in first ODI

Associated Press
BASSETERRE

Sherfane Rutherford smashed 113 runs in 80 balls as West Indies secured a five-wicket win over Bangladesh with 14 balls remaining in the first ODI in Basseterre on Sunday.

Rutherford struck eight sixes and seven boundaries at Basseterre's Warner Park.

The scores: Bangladesh 294/6 in 50 overs (Mehidy 74, Tanzid 60, Mahmadullah 50, Jaker 48, Shepherd 3/51) lost to West Indies 295/5 in 47.4 overs (Rutherford 113, Hope 86, Greaves 41 n.o.); **Toss**: Bangladesh; **PoM**: Rutherford.

Dali's Destiny clinches the Chaitanya Chakram Cup

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer Laxman Singh's ward Dali's Destiny, ridden by P. Sai Kumar, won the Chaitanya Chakram Cup, the main event of Monday's (Dec. 9) races. The winner is owned by Mr. N. Adil Mirza, Ms. Nimrah Mirza & Mr. Mohd. Sohrab Mirza.

1. NIRMAL PLATE (Div. II) (1,100m): TORCHBEARER (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Calista Girl (Gaurav) 2, Kenaf (Shivansh) 3 and Rival (P. Sai K) 4. 2-3/4, 6 and 1-1/4. 1m 5. 10s. ₹22 (w), 12, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 25, THP: 37, SHW: 12 and 18, FP: 85, Q: 49, Tanala: 135. Favourite: Torchbearer. Owners: Col. S.B. Nair & Mr. Arjun Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

2. CYNDY PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m): KNIGHT CRUSADER (Akshay Kumar) 1, Great Giver (Kuldeep Jr.) 2, Peanut (Mukesh) 3 and Safala (B. Nikhil) 4. 5-1/4, 1 and 10-1/4. 1m 12. 58s. ₹11 (w), 10, 18 and 20 (p). SHP: 26, THP: 53, SHW: 10 and 15, FP: 29, Q: 26, Tanala: 102. Favourite: Knight Crusader. Owner: Mr. C. Aryama Sundaram. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

3. PALAMPET PLATE (1,400m): BURGUNDY BLACK (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Colt Pistol (Ajay K) 2, Power Ranger (Nakhat) 3 and Flashing Memories (R.S. Jodha) 4. Not run: Path Of Peace. Neck, 4-3/4 and 7-1/4. 1m 27. 44s. ₹15 (w), 10, 14 and 12 (p). SHP: 66, THP: 37, SHW: 10 and 29, FP: 85, Q: 75, Tanala: 145. Favourite: Burgundy Black. Owners: Mr. Rajeev Sharma & Mr. Rohit Gupta. Trainer: Magan Singh.

4. NIRMAL PLATE (Div. I) (1,100m): **ONE N ONLY** (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Gatiman (Mukesh) 2, Winning Attitude (Akshay K) 3 and Assured Success (Rafique Sk.) 4. Neck, 2-1/4 and 2. 1m 5. 66s. ₹14 (w), 10, 13 and 11 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 38, SHW: 10 and 18, FP: 25, Q: 20, Tanala: 49. Favourite: One N Only. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Shankar Srinivas, Mr. Ashok Ranpise & Mrs. T. Rohini. Trainer: D. Netto.

5. CYNDY PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m): **NEWFOUND GLORY** (P. Sai Kumar) 1, N R I Ranger (A.A. Vikrant) 2, Dream To Fly (G. Naresh) 3 and Eminency (Nakhat) 4. Neck, Head and 4-1/2. 1m 12. 91s. ₹24 (w), 12, 24 and 14 (p). SHP: 48, THP: 52, SHW: 15 and 52, FP: 109, Q: 80, Tanala: 836. Favourite: Newfound Glory. Owners: Mr. K. Mallikarjuna Rao & M/s. The United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

6. VIKARABAD CUP (1,600m): LIFES JOURNEY (Gaurav Singh) 1, Antidote (Abhay Singh) 2, Nkalanzinzi (B.R. Kumar) 3 and London Bell (R.S. Jodha) 4. Short Head, 10 and 3/4. 1m 40. 75s. ₹19 (w), 10, 13 and 42 (p). SHP: 49, THP: 63, SHW: 10 and 24, FP: 100, Q: 57, Tanala: 1,062. Favourite: Lifes Journey. Owner: Mr. S. Pathy. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

7. CHAITANYA CHAKRAM CUP (1,400m): DALI'S DESTINY (P. Sai Kumar) 1, Windsor (Afroz K) 2, Golden Gazelle (H.M. Akshay) 3 and Darling's Boy (Akshay K) 4. 2-1/4, Head and 1. 1m 26. 02s. ₹16 (w), 10, 48 and 13 (p). SHP: 159, THP: 44, SHW: 13 and 88, FP: 346, Q: 179, Tanala: 2,547. Favourite: Dali's Destiny. Owners: Mr. N. Adil Mirza, Ms. Nimrah Mirza & Mr. Mohd. Sohrab Mirza. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

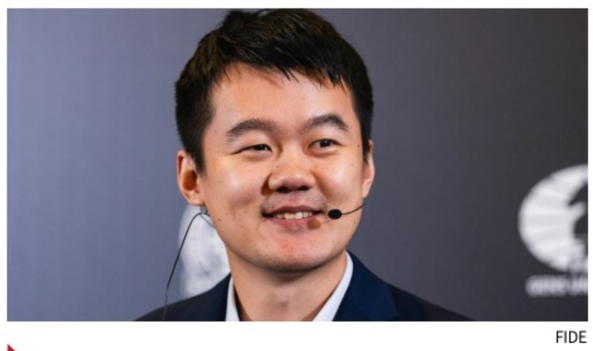
8. STARRY SCENE PLATE (1,100m): CHAR EK CHAR (Mohit Singh) 1, Nityasundara (B. Nikhil) 2, Reining Queen (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Taaliyah (B.R. Kumar) 4. 3/4, Short Head and Neck. 1m 7. 47s. ₹138 (w), 41, 14 and 21 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 61, SHW: 31 and 26, FP: 1,122, Q: 214, Tanala: 6,703. Favourite: Nityasundara. Owner: Mr. Md. Sultan. Trainer: M.F. Ali Khan.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹4,626 (99 tkts.), 30%: 113 (1,728 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 43 (569 tkts.), (ii) 81 (208 tkts.), (iii) 321 (107 tkts.).

BOUNCING BACK

Ding says his mother and Rapport helped him recover from defeat



FIDE

Ding Liren revealed how his mother and second Richard Rapport helped him recover from his loss to D. Gukesh. "My mother gave me confidence. She reminded that I had done it last time (in the World championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi), so I could do it again…And sometimes I perform very well after a loss."

DOWNCAST

Bad games happen, says Gukesh after the reverse in Game 12

FIDE

Gukesh said the 6-6 scoreline was fair. "But since I was leading after Game 11, it is a bit disappointing to lose this game," he said. "In the second half, I had chances in many of the games. Today was obviously a bad game, but I wouldn't draw too much from it. Bad games happen. I think we are both playing better than the first half."

HEAT OF THE MOMENT

Siraj penalised 20% of match fee, Head reprimanded for face-off

AFP

Mohammed Siraj was penalised 20% of his match fee while Travis Head was reprimanded by the ICC following their angry face-off during the second Test at the Adelaide Oval. The two players received one demerit point each. According to the ICC note, both admitted to their offences and accepted the sanctions.

GOING BIG

Steelers too strong for Titans; Dabang edges out Paltan

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Haryana Steelers scored a massive 46-25 win over Telugu Titans in a PKL match in Pune on Monday. Shivam Patare with 12 points, was the star for Steelers. In the day's other match, Dabang Delhi defeated Puneri Paltan 30-26. **Sunday's results:** Gujarat Giants bt U Mumba 34-33; Patna Pirates bt Jaipur Pink Panthers 38-28.

Game on: Ding is back on level terms after his first victory with white. FIDE

King Ding strikes back in Game 12

Chinese GM aces an almost must-win game in 39 moves to draw level with Gukesh; the score is 6-6 with two games to go; Tuesday is a rest day

FIDE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SINGAPORE 2024

P.K. Ajith Kumar
SINGAPORE

King Ding is chilling. Again.

Ding Liren used all his experience and showed his class and resilience to storm back into the World championship match in style. In an almost must-win game, he prevailed over D. Gukesh at World Resorts Sentosa on Monday.

The score is now 6-6 after Game 12. The two men head into the last rest day with every scenario possible, including a tie-breaker.

What we know for sure is that the match will go the distance as far as the classical games are concerned. Neither player can now win the crown with a game to spare. One needs 7.5 points for that.

A draw would have suited Gukesh on this day.

After scoring a crucial win in the last game and thus taking the lead for the first time in the match, he could have consolidated his position with half-a-point.

But, Ding was in no mood to oblige.

He opted for the English Opening, and also ensured that he was in no time trouble, as he had been here for much of the match.

He was able to get a better position out of the opening.

He continued to build on that, and came up with the right move whenever it mattered most. The same cannot be said of Gukesh.

For once, the precise calculation – a major strength of his – deserted him. Against a Ding who was playing at his best, it was going to be costly. So it turned out.

He erred on the 16th and 17th moves with his knight and bishop and White's position began to look menacing. Ding continued to put pressure with the perfect pawn push in the centre.

After his 22nd move with the dark-squared bishop, Gukesh's already precarious position became very difficult, or almost impossible, to defend. Ding went on to capture a couple of pawns and advanced his 'd' pawn all the way to the seventh rank.

The end was hastened by Gukesh's 'f' pawn push on the 38th move. Ding then finished with a flourish, sacrificing his rook for a pawn.

Gukesh resigned with checkmate not far away. It was the first win for Ding with white. He could not have timed it better.

After his defeat on Sunday, he had pointed out at the press conference that he had won Game 12 in last year's World championship against Ian Nepomniachtchi – with white pieces – after being in a similar situation.

Much to his delight, history repeated itself.

GAME 12: MOVES

Ding vs Gukesh

1. c4 e6 2. g3 d5 3. Bg2 Nf6 4. Nf3 d4 5. O-O Nc6 6. e3 Be7 7. d3 dxe3 8. Bxe3 e5 9. Nc3 O-O 10. Re1 h6 11. a3 a5 12. h3 Be6 13. Kh2 Rb8 14. Qc2 Re8 15. Nb5 Bf5 16. Rad1 Nd7 17. Qd2 Bg6 18. d4 e4 19. Ng1 Nb6 20. Qc3 Bf6 21. Qc2 a4 22. Ne2 Bg5 23. Nf4

23... Bxf4 24. Bxf4 Rc8 25. Qc3 Nb8 26. d5 Qd7 27. d6 c5 28. Nc7 Rf8 29. Bxe4 Nc6 30. Bg2 Rcd8 31. Nd5 Nxd5 32. cxd5 Nb8 33. Qxc5 Rc8 34. Qd4 Na6 35. Re7 Qb5 36. d7 Rc4 37. Qe3 Rc2 38. Bd6 f6 39. Rxg7+

Black resigned

India batters' pink ball travails continue

INDIA IN AUS

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

India's travails with the pink ball under Adelaide skies got a second episode over the weekend. If the 2020 outing and the meagre score of 36 are inextricably linked, the second Test of the current Border-Gavaskar Trophy series moved towards another sobering defeat.

The highs gained from the Perth Test were frittered away in the City of Churches and even if Rohit Sharma hinted at keeping the faith, the teams will start level at 1-1 in the third Test at Brisbane from December 14. Perhaps, the latest bout of oscillating fortunes is in tune with the competitive zeal often seen when India and Australia lock horns in the cricketing universe.

However, Rohit's men had the better of fortunes if the toss factor is taken into account. The Indian skipper called right, elected to bat and it meant that his batters had enough time under the afternoon sun before facing the pink ball under lights. It was all about digging in deep before finding their fruits of labour over the course of the Test. Instead, a 180 was mustered while Mitchell Starc grabbed six wickets. K.L. Rahul and Shubman Gill were the initial anchors but they failed to convert promise into potential. The veterans, Virat Kohli and Rohit, too fell cheaply, and it was too much to expect the others to chip in, even if Rishabh Pant, Nitish Kumar and R. Ashwin added some runs.

Across three innings out of the four that India batted, both at Perth's Optus Stadium and the Adelaide Oval, it was Nitish, stepping in at number seven, who top-scored with 41, 42 and 42.

Except for the phase at Perth when Rahul and centurions Yashasvi Jaiswal and Kohli excelled, the batting mainstays have been lukewarm. "We need runs on the board," Rohit said after the defeat here on Sunday.

The skipper is aware of the drought in runs, be it from his willow and from some of his batting colleagues. That Jasprit Bumrah and company were a bit skewed in their radars under lights on the opening day, cannot be denied either. But the reality is that more often than not in the recent past, it is the bowlers and a lower order that have held India afloat in the longer format.

Even as the bowlers tried to pull back from the second day despite Harshit Rana's expensive overs, Travis Head's superb 140 meant that Australia was truly ahead. A 157-run deficit and another middling second innings left India on the edge. It didn't need much for the Australian openers Usman Khawaja and Nathan McSweeney to nudge the visitors towards the abyss.

To hope that Bumrah will deliver all the time is a fallacy, and he too needs the cover of runs to make his stealth attacks from the bowling crease more effective.

"You cannot expect Bumrah to bowl from both ends," Rohit wryly said. As the Indians look ahead towards the third Test, one relief is that it was at Brisbane's Gabba that Pant ushered in a miracle while India won the 2020-21 series 2-1.

WTC Points Table

		P	W	L	D	DED*	PTS	PCT
1	South Africa	10	6	3	1	0	76	63.33
2	Australia	14	9	4	1	10	102	60.71
3	India	16	9	6	1	2	110	57.29
4	Sri Lanka	11	5	6	0	0	60	45.45
5	England	21	11	9	1	22	114	45.24
6	New Zealand	13	6	7	0	3	69	44.23
7	Pakistan	10	4	6	0	8	40	33.33
8	Bangladesh	12	4	8	0	3	45	31.25
9	West Indies	11	2	7	2	0	32	24.24

Points system: 12 for a win, 6 for a tie, 4 for a draw

The teams are ranked according to the percentage of points won and the top two progress to the final at Lord's in 2025

***Deductions:** Points are deducted for slow over rates

From a ground staff to an all-time great — the remarkable journey of Nathan Lyon

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
ADELAIDE

Lyon and Adelaide head curator Damian Hough.

Past the Don Bradman statue frozen in an evocative drive, the Adelaide Oval remains a hallowed territory. Inside the ground, there is a surface layered with history and perhaps fortified with the sweat of a quintessential Aussie hero.

Nathan Lyon, champion spinner, naughty raconteur, knew the pitch in a rather intimate way, many years ago.

This was back in 2010, when he was part of the ground staff here, and it is no surprise that the present head curator, Damian Hough, is all warmth and wonder about all things Lyon.

"He was the first employee I employed. He came from the Manuka Oval in Canberra. Had a bit of a chat with him, told him what the role was and soon he was playing for South Australia, Australia A, and the next minute he is playing for Australia in Sri Lanka," Damian recalled.

Tending to the pitch and outfield while also finding time to sneak in a club game and some practice sessions, Lyon must have had his hands full. "He would work hard but in the end he had to choose between cricket and being a groundsman. Once Darren Berry found him, there was no turning back. Nathan was a good curator, he was just good energy, always a team member, quite cheeky, so good banter, good humour," Damian said.

Did the cricket ever affect his duties allied with the surface? Damian was quick to react: "He was so professional. I knew he played cricket but I didn't know how good he was. He looked after the ground on his own. Worked really hard. In fact, he cut the outfield during the 2010 Ashes Test. Back then he used to go to the Karen Rolton Oval, bowl in the nets."

Soon the transition to full-time playing happened and Damian recalled: "One day he came back and said 'sorry I have been picked for the first squad for the South Australian team.' His parents are lovely countryside people and they brought him up well."

Does knowing the pitch help Lyon in anyway? Damian had his views: "I am not sure. He has interest in surfaces, don't know if it helps you in the way you play the game. But he has also been out of this for long."

Lyon's kinship with surfaces may have changed but his friendship with Damian is set in stone: "We are pretty close, we don't see each other a lot but we slip in a message from time to time. He has seen my kids grow up. We also have this professional equation between a curator and a player. His is an all-time great story and he has stayed really humble and down to earth."

SA in pole position after sweeping SL

Agence France-Presse
GQEBERHA

Keshav Maharaj took five wickets as South Africa beat Sri Lanka by 109 runs on the fifth day of the second Test at St George's Park on Monday.

SA tops the WTC table after the 2-0 series win and its chances of playing in the final lies in its own hands, with two remaining fixtures being at home against Pakistan.

The scores: South Africa 358 & 317 bt Sri Lanka 328 & 238 in 69.1 overs (de Silva 50, Kusal 46; Maharaj 5/76); **PoM**: Paterson; **PoS**: Bavuma.

Ghosh holds his nerve to snatch it for Bengal

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

An excellent spell from Sayan Ghosh (four for 30) helped Bengal edge out Chandigarh by three runs in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy pre-quarterfinal at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Monday.

The pacer, who bowls with a slinger action, prised out the Chandigarh middle-order, and returned to complete the job in the final over.

With Chandigarh needing 11 to win in the last over, Ghosh displayed steady nerves to concede only seven runs. Batting first, Bengal ran the risk of being bowled out for a cheap score after falling to 114 for eight.

Lion-hearted effort: Ghosh displayed excellent skills at the death as Bengal pulled off a heist. K. MURALI KUMAR

Chandigarh pacer Jagjit Singh, the highest wicket-taker of the tournament, gained appreciable movement to trouble the batters.

Bengal was saved by an invaluable cameo from tailender Mohammed Shami, who slammed an unbeaten 17-ball 32. Shami's big hits pushed Bengal to a competitive 159 for nine.

Karan Lal (33), Writtick Chatterjee (28) and Pradipta Pramanik (30) chipped in with the bat, while Jagjit returned impressive figures of four for 21.

Chandigarh stayed on track in the chase through a 45-run fifth-wicket partnership between Raj Bawa (32, 20b) and Pardeep Yadav (27, 19b).

The duo guided Chandigarh to 101 for four, before a spate of wickets derailed the team.

In the other pre-quarterfinal, Uttar Pradesh took out Andhra by four wickets.

Chasing a modest target of 157, the equation came down to 48 runs needed from four overs.

Young Vipraj Nigam stepped up with a blistering unbeaten eight-ball 27 to take Uttar Pradesh home with an over to spare.

The scores:
Bengal 159/9 in 20 overs (Karan Lal 33, Writtick Chatterjee 28, Pradipta Pramanik 30, Mohammed Shami 32 n.o., Jagjit Singh 4/21) bt Chandigarh 156/9 in 20 overs (Raj Bawa 32, Pardeep Yadav 27, Sayan Ghosh 4/30). Andhra 156/6 in 20 overs (S.D.N.V. Prasad 34 n.o.) lost to Uttar Pradesh 157/6 in 19 overs (Karan Sharma 48, Rinku Singh 27 n.o., Vipraj Nigam 27 n.o., K. Sudharsan 3/22).

Shami on the prowl

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Mohammed Shami checked all the boxes as he put on a good show for Bengal against Chandigarh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy pre-quarterfinal here on Monday. Shami shone with bat and ball here, even as speculation grew surrounding a call-up to the Indian Test squad.

Shami smashed an unbeaten 17-ball 32. There were no visible fitness concerns, as Shami ran at full tilt between the wickets.

Shami bowled three overs on the trot with the new ball, returning figures of 3-0-13-1. He kept a tight length at a brisk pace, nearly breaching the 140 kmph mark. Shami left the field after his first spell, and took a massage outside the boundary ropes. Though he conceded 12 in the 19th over, it didn't prove costly.

Shami. K. MURALI KUMAR

INBRIEF

Griezmann's winner stuns Sevilla in seven-goal thriller

Antoine Griezmann struck a 94th-minute winner to snatch Atletico Madrid a 4-3 victory over Sevilla on Sunday in LaLiga.

The results: LaLiga: Atletico 4 (De Paul 10, Griezmann 62, 90+4, Lino 79) bt Sevilla 3 (Lukebakio 12, Romero 32, Sanchez 57). **Serie A:** Napoli 0 lost to Lazio 1 (Isaksen 79).

Kush Maini's Invicta Racing wins F2 Constructors' title

Indian driver Kush Maini finished 13th in the drivers' standings in his second Formula 2 season while Invicta Racing teammate Gabriel Bortoleto won the title. Invicta Racing also won team title.

LIVE TELECAST

West Indies vs Bangladesh: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 7 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m.
South Africa vs Pakistan: 1st T20I, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 9.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Scheffler wins title at Hero World Challenge

World No. 1 comes up with bogey-free final round to emerge on top of the heap; debutant Indian-American Akshay finishes fourth

GOLF

V. V. Ramanan
NASSAU

A champion is what a champion does!

Scottie Scheffler was relentless as the World No.1 conjured up a scintillating, bogey-free final round to claim the Hero World Challenge title with ease at the Albany course on Sunday.

The ninth triumph of the year not only made the American richer by $1 million but he also became the third player – after tournament host Tiger Woods (2006 & 2007) and Viktor Hovland (2021 & 2022) – to retain the beautiful trophy.

Starting the day a stroke behind Justin Thomas, the 28-year-old drove with aplomb and putted with precision, returning a card of 63 for a four-round total of 25-under 263 and win by a whopping six strokes ahead of Tom Kim who continued his good work from Saturday with a 68, despite two bogeys to go with six birdies.

Winning feeling! Champion Scheffler with Woods, the tournament host. AP

Thomas kept pace with Scheffler initially, but some close misses for birdies and four bogeys scuttled his chances of breaking his winless drought. He signed off with a 270 for a third-place finish.

Debutant Indian-American Akshay Bhatia (69) was fourth with a 15-under while Ryder Cup captain Keegan Bradley (71) rounded up the top five, a further stroke behind.

Final scores (top five): 263: Scottie Scheffler (67, 64, 69, 63); **269:** Tom Kim (74, 65, 62, 68); **270:** Justin Thomas (66, 67, 66, 71). **273:** Akshay Bhatia (67, 66, 71, 69); **274:** Keegan Bradley (68, 67, 68, 71).

(The correspondent is in Nassau at the invitation of Hero MotoCorp)

Sarthak finishes third overall in FIM-ARRC

Sports Bureau

India's Sarthak Chavan finished third overall in the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC), TVS One Make Category with 127 points on Sunday. He became the first Indian to the feat in the championship.

Sarthak said: "It's an incredible feeling to represent India and achieve something historic."

Atiqa shines

Atiqa Mir created history by becoming the only Indian to finish on the podium in the mini under-10 category in the Champions of the Future Academy Programme, supported by F1 Academy in Al Forsan, UAE, recently. Atiqa secured the feat by finishing third in the category in the sixth round of the prestigious global championship, which attracts the world's best drivers.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Tuesday: Dinamo vs Celtic, Girona vs Liverpool *(11:15 pm)*; Atalanta vs Real Madrid, Leverkusen vs Inter Milan, Brest vs PSV Eindhoven, Club Brugge vs Sporting CP, RB Leipzig vs Aston Villa, RB Salzburg vs Paris Saint-Germain, Shakhtar Donetsk vs Bayern Munich *(1:30 am Wednesday)*.
Wednesday: Atletico Madrid vs Slovan Bratislava, Lille vs SK Sturm Graz *(11:15 pm)*; AC Milan vs Red Star Belgrade, Arsenal vs AS Monaco, Benfica vs Bologna, Borussia Dortmund vs Barcelona, Feyenoord Rotterdam vs Sparta Prague, Juventus vs Manchester City, VfB Stuttgart vs Young Boys *(1:30 am Thursday)*.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Vrinda shines

Vrinda Dinesh (62) helped Karnataka beat Rajasthan by five wickets in the BCCI senior women's one-day Trophy in Sultanpur.
The scores: Rajasthan 175/9 in 50 overs (A.D. Garg 33, S.L. Meena 76, Monica C. Patel 3/32, Ananya Hegde 3/40) lost to Karnataka 176/5 in 39.5 overs (Shubha Satheesh 47, Vrinda Dinesh 62).

Karnataka posts win

Dhyaan M. Hiremath (3/59 & 5/49) and J. Sukruth (36 & 81 n.o.) helped Karnataka defeat Vidarbha by six wickets in the Vijay Merchant (U-16) Trophy in Mangalagiri.
The scores: Vidarbha CA 203 in 77.5 overs (Kush Sharma 49, Saish Bhise 45, Om Dhotre 40, Dhyaan M. Hiremath 3/59) & 156 in 68.2 overs (Kanishk Jamuar 25, Kush Sharma 41, Krish Sonkusre 35, Dhyaan M. Hiremath 5/49) lost to Karnataka 178 in 67 overs (Dhruv Krishnan 35, Anvay David 57, J. Sukruth 36, Kush Sharma 6/27) & 182/4 in 51.1 overs (J. Sukruth 81 n.o., Arush Jain 49 n.o.).

Liyanka cracks century

Rohini Dechamma (95 n.o.) and Liyanka Shetty (105 n.o.) set up Karnataka's thumping 121-run victory over Baroda in the BCCI u-15 girls' one-day trophy in Jaipur. Karnataka will next meet Bengal in the last eight on Thursday.
The scores: Karnataka 209 for no loss in 35 overs (Rohini Dechamma 95 n.o., Liyanka Shetty 105 n.o.) bt Baroda 88 in 23.3 overs (Pratha Vanar 29).

Karnataka fails to qualify

Defending champion Karnataka failed to qualify for the knockout phase of the Cooch Behar (u-19) Trophy after finishing third in Elite Group-A. Baroda finished first with 34 points from five games. Delhi and Karnataka were tied for second spot on 20 points but the former had a better quotient (1.309 to Karnataka's 1.199).

Rhunmaan and Jahnavi advance

BENGALURU: Top seeds Rhunmaan M. Mahesh and Jahnavi Tammineedi moved into the second round of the KSLTA-Asian Junior (under-14) tennis tournament at the KSLTA courts on Monday.
While Rhunmaan overcame Jeevith Sathish 6-4, 6-4, Jahnavi defeated Zoha Qureshi 7-5, 6-4.

Lalruatsanga scores winner

Lalruatsanga scored an injury time winner as Sporting Club Bengaluru edged out Rebels FC 1-0 in the BDFA Super Division League on Monday.
The results: Sporting Club Bengaluru 1 (P.C. Lalruatsanga 90+1) bt Rebels 0; Kodagu 1 (Lalkrawsmawia 8) drew with MFAR Students Union 1 (Mighael Gabriel Nile 55).
A-div: Infinite Belagavi 3 (B. Atharva 15, 35+1, D. Akash 46) bt Postal Dept. 0; Vehicles 2 (Ravikiran 34, Manoj SivaKumar 54) bt ADE 0; Bangalore Warriors 2 (Thangventulaunga 20, R. Pradeep 70) drew with Revive 2 (Mathew Thapa 12, S. Seenu 70+4).

MSRIT pips RVCE

MSRIT pipped RVCE by two runs in the M.S. Ramaiah memorial state-level inter-engineering collegiate cricket tournament on Monday.
The scores: MSRIT 145/7 in 30 overs (Chinmay 56, Rohan 26) bt RVCE 143/8 in 30 overs (Neeraj 48, Abhiram 28); NMIT 156/9 in 30 overs (Vinay 38, Hemanth 31) lost to MSRIT-B 157/7 in 30 overs (Sreecharan 40, Sidvin 38 n.o., K. Vishal 29).

Priyanuj Bhattacharya sails into the under-17 quarterfinals

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Top seed Priyanuj Bhattacharya (Assam) breezed into the under-17 boys' quarterfinals of the UTT National-ranking table tennis on Monday.

Rajdip Dey (PSPBA) was suspended from the tournament for racquet abuse. Rajdip, who lost the qualification round to S. Sreejith (Kerala), threw away his racquet in anger and it narrowly missed hitting the guests sitting on the dias.

The results: U-17:
Pre-quarterfinals:

Boys: Priyanuj Bhattacharya (Asm) bt Debraj Bhattacharjee (Ben) 11-6, 11-8, 11-7; Abhinand (TN) bt Rajveer Singh Bhatia (Pun) 11-6, 11-5, 11-5; Punit Biswas (Ben) bt Rupam Sardar (Ben) 11-6, 13-11, 11-13, 11-8.
Sudhanshu Maini (AAI) bt Rushikesh Jagtap (PSPB) 9-11, 11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9; Atherva Gupta (Del) bt Aarav Acharya (TTFI) 11-5, 11-6, 11-6; Umesh Kumar (TN) bt Arya Kataria (Guj) 11-8, 8-11, 11-9, 14-12; Aayush Tanna (Guj) bt Bhushan Akshay (TN) 11-7, 11-9, 10-12, 11-3.
Girls: Syndrela Das (Ben) bt Aolika Sen (Ben) 11-1, 113, 11-9; Ananya Muralidhran (TN) bt Aarushi Nandu (Ben) 11-7, 11-9, 9-11, 12-10.
Kavya Bhatt (Mah) bt Prachi Mazumdar (Asm) 9-11, 11-13, 11-6, 11-5, 11-6; Vanshika Mudgal (FCI) bt Naisha Rewaskar (Mah) 12-10, 5-11, 11-3, 13-11.
Neeti Agarwal (Kar) bt Dilsa Roy (Ben) 11-7, 11-8, 12-14, 7-11, 12-10; Diya Bramchary (Del) bt Pratha Pawar (Guj) 11-4, 12-10, 11-9.
Avani Tripathi (UP) bt Jiyah Bhandari (TN) 11-5, 11-9, 11-8; Suhani Mahajan (UP) bt Dhaani Jain (Del) 11-7, 11-8, 11-4; Ahona Ray (Ben) bt Nandini Saha (Ben) 11-6, 11-8, 12-10.